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The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION
WITH CARROLL GARDENS, COBBLE HILL, RED HOOK, BOERUM HILL, FORT GREENE, CLINTON HILL, DUMBO

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Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force, thanks to a Con Edison power outage on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for mucking up subway signals, slowing some lines and closing others.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olett said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's bad luck of the draw."

Con Ed was trying to restore power to about 640 residents and businesses in an area bounded by Pacific, Baltic, Hoyt and Court streets at around noon on Monday. The neighborhood's electricity was fully restored by 5 pm that evening, Con Ed said.

"The heat was probably a factor" for the blackout, Olett said, adding that Con Ed was running above its normal capacity.

But Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down cables, which contributed to the energy snafu, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat.

See HOT1 on page 2

SPLITSVILLE!

Brooklyn divorces up 30%

All our exes live in ... Brooklyn? Yes, divorce cases are soaring in Kings County — up a whopping 30 percent since 2003.

The surge covers uncontested divorces — which numbered 5,489 in 2004 and jumped to 7,035 last year. Contested divorces — the ones that get ugly — are up five percent, according to Tom Killiole, the clerk at the Adams Street courthouse.

And no one knows why. It's certainly not Brooklyn's population increase — which is only up two percent so far this decade.

Of course, there are several theories:

• **Good times!** The booming economy between 2003 and 2007 allowed dissatisfied couples to realize that they could now afford to break up.

• **A healthy economy means steady traffic at the divorce court,** said Saul Edelstein, the dean of Brooklyn's di-



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

DIVORCE COURT

vorcer bar, who has been rendering people asunder for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce.' Man, 2003 to 2004 was whoopee time for me."

• **Bad times!** Of course, when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been pretty bad.

• **There tend to be more divorces during bad times,** said Donald Mastrodomenico, another legend of the Brooklyn divorce scene.

• **More hate!** Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love. But that fact doesn't explain why there would be so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites are hating each other more than before," said Jef-

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
for The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year — and traditionalists are outraged.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change for the upcoming July 4 contest comes after the discovery of a trove of "numerous old items and ephemera" near the Nathan's stand at the historic corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues in Coney Island.

"Some random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently unearthed at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the notations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend was won by Jim Mullen with 13 hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 HDDs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap

See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer

Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczinski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Record heat hit the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over, Cycles fans.

At long last, nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cycles were swept in the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 pm at KeySpan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to KeySpan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cycles in their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

First golfer Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, but Hiz-zoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, a six-hole course built on a formerly empty lot next to the existing 18-hole Dyker Beach public links, offers free and comprehensive lessons for kids, ages 6 to 17.

The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October,

the center is the first of its kind in the country.

"This facility will introduce so many children, who otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to all the benefits of the game, including sportsmanship, self-discipline and enjoying the outdoors," said the mayor.

Eleven-year-old golf buff Erika Cristiano of Bay Ridge agreed, though she put it a different way.

"I like that golf's not like other games," said Cristiano, who caught the golf bug while participating in a less-intensive City Parks Foundation program that gives kids the basics.

But that's nothing compared to the new center, said Gregg Gausler, director of the facility.

"You can teach someone to See FREE GOLF on page 6



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Yousset, 12, followed Hiz-zoner.

IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.



Calm before the storm: Quiet Clinton Street in Red Hook will see an influx of cars once Ikea opens on June 18.

IKEA POLICES HOOK

Retail giant hires 17 cops to handle traffic all summer

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Ikea is so concerned about traffic after its opening in Red Hook on Wednesday, June 18, that the Swedish furniture giant will pay the NYPD to deploy 17 uniformed cops to keep cars flowing through the summer. The Brooklyn Paper has

EXCLUSIVE

learned. Renting more than a dozen of New York's Finest is part of Ikea's multi-pronged approach to dealing with the thousands of shoppers every weekday, and the estimated 17,000 customers each

weekend day. Its plans also entail free ferry and subway shuttle service to Borough Hall and Smith-Ninth Street — but these forms of transportation may not appeal to shoppers lugging home cumbersome furniture (or stockpiling Swedish meatballs). For drivers, Ikea has paid the city to put up new signs on highways and local roads directing

drivers to and from the Beard Street mega-store. Clinton Street will be the main artery for drivers to reach the 22-acre waterfront store — Ikea's first in the city. The anticipated increase in traffic in what has been a remote neighborhood was one of the chief arguments levied by critics six years ago against per-

mitting the store to open. But Deputy Inspector Michael Kemper, the commanding officer of the 76th Precinct, which covers Red Hook, has heard these unfulfilled hypotheses before, like when the city opened a cruise ship terminal off of Imlay Street in 2006. "Every time that a ship is in, we have thousands of cars in



OPENS JUNE 18!

and out of Red Hook," Kemper said, adding that the additional traffic is not a big deal. But cruise ships only come in once a week on average — and only during the sailing season — unlike Ikea, which will be open from 10 am to 10 pm, seven days a week.

With traffic expected to be steady and severe, Ikea lined up the 17 cops from the NYPD's "paid detail unit."

That unit is a pool of off-duty cops who make more than \$50 per hour by doing additional, city-sanctioned police work on their time off. Rockefeller Center, Yankee Stadium and synagogues and merchants associations have paid for cops in the past, the NYPD said.

Despite concerns about traffic, Red Hook residents remain pleased at the big blue giant hulking at the southern edge of their hand-scrambled neighborhood, where unemployment is around 20 percent.

Though the company, citing employee privacy, will not divulge how many of its 600 positions have been filled by Red Hookers, neighbors are still lavishing praise.

"It's a large number," said Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook East Tenants Association, who added that she personally knows five people who became managers.

"I'm well satisfied. They kept their promise."

HOT!

Continued from page 1

wave. "We've seen this before — businesses shuttered as a result of Con Ed's ineptitude," said Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Queens). "How much more do we need to put up with before we say enough's enough? This is what happens when an under-regulated monopoly runs amok."

Olet rejected Gioia's charge, saying that Con Ed spent \$1.7 billion in new cables, transformers and substations across the five boroughs since last September. And the company has handed out \$50,000 in payments to affected stores.

But the money did not prevent a blackout that lasted 24 hours for some people and affected service along the 2, 3, 4, F and G subway lines.

"We have a 2-year-old daughter, so we would have liked to turn on the A/C," said Mike Grassotti, who lives on Smith Street at Warren Street and did not have power during the sweltering Sunday night. It was back by 8:30 am, he said.

But that wasn't soon enough to avoid a disastrous morning rush hour, when service along the F and G lines remained spotty.

"We had to bring in generators to run the signals," said Charles Seaton, spokesman for NYC Transit. "But they don't produce as much power as Con Ed."

Even as critics say that Con Ed is 0-for-1 so far this year, the state Department of Public Services, which regulates the energy giant, says it's too early to pass judgment.

"An assessment [of the blackout] would be premature," said agency spokeswoman Ann Dalton, who added, "They are being watched on a daily basis, 24/7."

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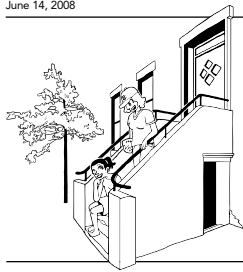


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THE STOOP

NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

RED HOOK



'PAVE' the way for Red Hook charter school

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

It's official! A Red Hook public elementary school will share its building next fall with a new charter school, despite protests from some parents and teachers who did not want to give an inch, let alone a few classrooms.

The PAVE Academy will begin next year with 88 students enrolled in kindergarten and first grade in a handful of classrooms and administrative offices inside PS 15 on Sullivan Street, which is at 54 percent capacity according to the Department of Education.

The announcement that PS 15 — also known as the Daly School for its former principal Patrick Daly who was slain in a gang-related shooting 15 years ago — would share space with the charter school ignited a firestorm of opposition from parents and educators in February.

But a series of meetings in the spring with PAVE officials defused some of the tension and even won over some parents, who have entered their children in the new academy, which will eventually cover K-8.

"If my daughter goes to a charter school, she's going to sprout like a pretty flower," said Sonae Ketter, who just enrolled her daughter at PAVE, which stands for Perseverance, Achievement, Vibrance and Excellent character. Some critics remain angry, fearing that the loss of six to eight rooms will crowd the public school.

"They shouldn't be there. They're going to take up a lot of room our kids need," said Vickie LaSalle, the mother of a student at PS 15.

One teacher speculated that the resources of the charter school, which is part of the public school system, might breed jealousy. "I don't want our kids to feel slighted if [PAVE] has the latest and greatest," said one teacher, requesting anonymity.

The PAVE Academy will have a maximum class size of 22 students with two teachers in every classroom, and longer school days and years. The school "will focus relentlessly on preparing children for college," said PAVE's founder and director Spencer Robertson. Robertson added that 75 percent of next year's students are from the Red Hook ZIP code, 11231.

PS 15's reputation is nothing to sneer at. The Department of Education gave the school an "A" on its report card, which mainly tracks student improvement over the previous year.

Though PAVE will have a private entrance to the school on Wolcott Street, it's possible that the students and administration of the respective schools could butt heads over turf. PAVE's pupils will be easily identified by their school uniforms. Meanwhile, the principals must sort out issues of how to share the cafeteria, auditorium and playground and other common spaces.

COBBLE HILL

Docs: LICH prognosis negative

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Medical staff at Long Island College Hospital say the only way to save their institution's body is to cut off its head.

To rescue LICH from mounting financial losses and declining patient visits some doctors and nurses say the hospital should sever its connection with Continuum Health Partners, the company that manages LICH and several Manhattan hospitals.

LICH doctors and other staffers have filed a complaint with the state Department of Health to terminate their affiliation with Continuum and were joined by members of Brooklyn's congressional delegation and other elected officials in a protest on hospital ground in the sweltering heat on Monday.

Critics say that Cobble Hill's venerable medical facility has been on a steady decline since it joined Continuum in 1998, during a wave of mergers and affiliations across the country.

LICH now has a \$35-million deficit on this year's \$250-million budget, a sign, staffers say, that the 150-year-old hospital is headed towards bankruptcy.

"After 10 years [with Continuum], our current financial



Politicians and doctors rallied outside the 150-year-old Long Island College Hospital, claiming that the Manhattan-based health care company that operates the facility is running it into the ground.

difficulty is far worse," said Dr. Arnold Licht, president of the hospital's medical staff.

Continuum's sale of hospital real estate, including five clinics, to offset losses is a recipe for continued shrinkage of services and revenue for the hospital, Licht said of the 506-bed facility.

"I do envision them downsizing us further to a hospital of 200 beds, which would operate without any of the staff that we were renowned for," such as its OBGYN and urology centers, Licht told The Brooklyn Paper.

Continuum denies that it has plans to shutter the hospital and said that many hospitals do not run at full capacity because of the shift towards outpatient care, rather than lengthy hospital stays for patients.

The health care giant also defended the sale of neighborhood clinics, including over Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope that had more than 40,000 patient visits per year, because such clinics increased the financial strain on LICH.

"These are physician practices that were struggling," said Jim Mandler, a Continuum spokesman.

Other sold properties include the landmark Lamm Institute building on Amity Street in Cobble Hill, which netted \$6.1 million; the former Longshoremen's medical center on Court Street in Carroll Gardens, which LICH used for its nursing and radiology schools until last year, when the building sold for \$24 million; and several neighborhood brownstone houses — all done to narrow the gap between revenue and expenses.

"When [a] real-estate holding is no longer going to be used for the provision of medical services, it behooves the hospital to divest themselves of the holding," said Mandler.

The staff remains unconvinced, firing off a complaint to Attorney General Cuomo in January that Continuum has mismanaged the hospital's funds, including a \$100-million bequest that was allegedly siphoned off to other branches of Continuum.

Neighbors don't want to see the facility go down the tubes. "We want this to be the best possible hospital because if you have an emergency, this is where you're going to go," said Cobble Hill Association member Margaret Ablon, whose daughter gave birth to two children in LICH.

The city's Department of Design and Construction says the last stage of reconstruction between Atlantic Avenue and Congress Street will finish in four to six weeks, give or take.

COLUMBIA ST.

Columbia Street wants normalcy

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

After three years of rebuilding Columbia Street, work crews are finally down to the last few blocks — between Atlantic Avenue and Congress Street. But residents complain the city needs to step up street cleaning, restore bus routes and plant parking signs along the main drag.

Garbage is everywhere in the waterfront barrio, despite a mostly paved, tree-lined street. And residents said they remain confused about where to park and catch a bus.

The B61, the mass transit lifeline for the hard-to-reach neighborhood, had been rerouted along Hicks Street during the road work, but in recent weeks its path has been inconsistent. Officially, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority says the bus will continue on Hicks Street for two more months, but



it has been spotted traveling on Columbia Street.

Meanwhile, there's a shortage of parking signs on many blocks, causing uncertainty whether certain spaces are legal. Others are interpreting it as a free pass to park at will.

The street itself is becoming dirtier (see photo) — and a neighborhood source said it was because there has been no street

cleaning for weeks.

But the Department of Sanitation said it has not curtailed street cleaning.

"We are cleaning the streets as normal," said agency spokeswoman Kathy Dawkins.

The lengthy rehabilitation of Columbia Street had been a source of frustration for neighbors, so when the city announced it was near the end this spring, the community swelled with relief. Freebird Books even threw a party in May.

"Everyone was excited," said Brian McCormick, a member of the Columbia Waterfront Neighborhood Association. "But it's pretty dismal. The street looks very fringed-y after great expectations."

The city's Department of Design and Construction says the last stage of reconstruction between Atlantic Avenue and Congress Street will finish in four to six weeks, give or take.

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Dealers 'weed' each other out

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

A trio of armed bandits held five friends captive in a Lafayette Avenue apartment while the invaders looted the residence on June 6.

The melee began when the resident of the apartment, which is between Washington Avenue and St. James Place, answered the front door of the building expecting a female friend at 12:30 am, but instead was bum-rushed by three men, one of whom pulled a silver hand gun and pointed in the victim's face.

The hoodlums broke open the apartment door and cornered the 24-year-old tenant and the four other men in his apartment into the bedroom.

"Where's the weed?" one of the thugs yelled.

"You bring money into my neighborhood and no one's going to notice?" another said.

As a result of such taunting, cops believe that the victim was involved in drug dealing.

The thieves rummaged through the apartment and took an Apple computer, jewelry, Playstation video game system, and drove off in the resident's 2006 Range Rover.

Beat down

A horde of teenagers robbed a woman on Myrtle Avenue early on June 2.

The 20-year-old victim was near the corner of Emerson Place at 12:30 am when she was asked by a large pack of young men and women if she had any money.

After she told them no, one person in the crowd lunged for her purse and others struck her in the face several times causing her to lose her grip on the pocketbook.

The bag contained \$60, an iPod, her driver's license and a credit card.

Outnumbered

Three intimidating hoodlums mugged a Brooklyn Tech HS student on Fulton Street on June 2.

"Don't fight or you'll get hurt," said one of the thugs at around 3 pm between Rockwell and Ashland places.

The warning encouraged the 14-year-old into surrendering his wallet containing \$20 and a Metrocard.

Come up shorts

A man's wallet was stolen from his shorts in his Waverly Avenue office on June 2.

The worker arrived at his place of business at 10 am, according

POLICE BLOTTER

Break in

Intruders plundered a DeKalb Avenue construction site on June 6 or 7.

Burglars entered the site, which is between Waverly and Clermont avenues, by breaking down a plywood barrier after 5:45 pm on June 6 and before noon the next day.

The construction company handling the renovations lost a drill, hammer, saw and other tools.

—Mike McLaughlin

84TH PRECINCT

Downtown-DUMBO-Brooklyn Heights-Boerum Hill

Two perps mugged a young couple on June 2 at the corner of Elm and Livingston streets, getting \$6,300 in jewelry without a fight.

The thugs had followed the couple for several blocks at around 11:30 pm, and then complimented them on their expensive wedding and engagement rings.

One thug then said, "You know, you are going to have to give up those rings, or we're going to do something to you and you are going to get hurt."

Once they got the rings, the criminals fled.

Delivered

Three thugs staged a robbery in the early hours of June 4 when

they ordered cheeseburgers from an Atlantic Avenue diner and then beat up the delivery man.

The perps met the 33-year-old deliveryman at the corner of Nevins and Pacific streets at 2:35 am. One pulled a knife and said, "Give me everything," while another punched the victim in the face, pushed him up against a wall, and stole \$45 from his pockets and the food from his hands.

Stolen voices

Punks grabbed at least two more phones right out of the victim's hands last week. Here's a round-up:

• On June 1, two perps walked up behind a 19-year-old Queens woman on Fulton Street and snatched her T-Mobile Sidekick. The woman, who was near Lawrence Street at 2:30 pm, said the kids looked about 16 years old.

• On June 2, another 16-year-old punk punched another kid in the face and then stole his iPhone. The incident happened at 5 pm as they two passed each other on Fulton Street near Haven Place.

Inside man

Cops and Polytechnic University officials are hunting a student or staff member suspected of stealing computers and other technical equipment after hours, cops said.

On May 30, the perp stole two Apple computers from a lab in the school's Metrotech campus around 7 pm after breaking the doorknob and cutting the laptop's security cable.

There were two similar incidents last week and cops found fingerprints this time.

"It's an inside job," one cop suggested. "It's becoming a trend."

Grand theft auto

Car thefts are a continuing problem in the 84th Precinct, cops said, with older cars being swiped for parts. Last week, perps stole at least two cars from DUMBO and Brooklyn Heights:

• A Kensington man left his 2001 Volvo sedan parked on Front Street on June 1, but when he came back the next morning, it was gone from its spot near Bridge and Jay streets.

• A Boerum Hill woman left her 2001 SUV parked on Clinton Street on May 24 for five days, and when she came back, it was gone. The car parked three blocks from her front door.

—Sarah Portlock

bing a Lorraine Street Laundromat on June 6.

The suspected robber, 45, took himself to the cleaners, between Otisgo and Columbia streets, at 6:30 pm. Inside the business, the hoodlum smashed a window connecting to the store's locked office and stole \$25.

Back on the street, police apprehended a man fitting the thief's description and the shopkeeper identified him as the culprit.

Stolen voices

No hiding place is too secure for a wallet in a Hicks Street hospital.

A lady's wallet was stolen from the supposedly locked drawer of her desk on June 6 while she briefly left the office, between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street for about 15 minutes at 2:15 pm, the victim told police.

She returned to find her purse no longer held her wallet, which had \$40, an assortment of bank and credit cards and her ID.

76TH PRECINCT

Red Hook-Cobble Hill-Carroll Gardens

Taking candy

A villain stole a necklace from a toddler in a Lorraine Street playground on June 1.

The child's mother told police that a witness, possibly the tyke's nanny, saw a man remove the jewelry from the young boy's neck at the playground near the corner of Clinton Street at 9:15 pm.

Out to dry

Police captured a man for rob-

bing a Lorraine Street Laundromat on June 6.

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She returned to find her purse no longer held her wallet, which had \$40, an assortment of bank and credit cards and her ID.

76TH PRECINCT

Red Hook-Cobble Hill-Carroll Gardens

Taking candy

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The child's mother told police that a witness, possibly the tyke's nanny, saw a man remove the jewelry from the young boy's neck at the playground near the corner of Clinton Street at 9:15 pm.

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Out to dry

Two collided in brutal beating on First St

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope
Three teens were arrested minutes after brutally beating a man on First Street on June 2, cops said.

The victim, a 45-year-old Sixth Avenue resident, told police that he was walking towards Fourth Avenue when the posse set upon him. Two teens pummeled the man, while the other swiped his stuff. But minutes after the terrible trio — ages 14, 15 and 17 — fled towards Carroll Street, they were caught by cops and arrested.

Meanwhile, the victim headed to New York Methodist Hospital, just five blocks away, for treatment of abrasions on his elbow, leg, wrist and hand.

Cleaned out
A beloved Ninth Street jazz bar was cleaned out by a wily thief as workers were busy tying up the joint for the day's fun on June 6.

Cops say that the hood entered through the wide-open metal gate at around 9 a.m. — while the staff was cleaning up the bar, which is between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

The thief took \$3,000 from a metal box in the basement and fled. The workers didn't discover the crime for two hours.

Prospect perps
Two thugs were caught red-handed as they fled from a Prospect Park West apartment that they had just tried to enter on June 4, police said.

Officer Jose Garcia got to the apartment, which is at 13th Street, at around 4 p.m. to find the two men running down the rear fire escape. One of the 15-year-olds was quickly nabbed, and the other, seeing Garcia, headed for the roof.

But that didn't fool the officer, for he ran around the building and was waiting to collar the other 15-year-old.

Neither then had anything on him, but an investigation revealed a broken second-floor window. So the punks were hit with attempted burglary charges.

Wheel bad
A thief swiped a man's motorcycle from in front of a Douglas Street building on June 5.

The owner of the \$4,500 Suzuki chopper told cops that he had left the bike between Fourth and Fifth avenues at around 10 p.m. When he went back to the bike at 11 a.m. the next day, it was gone.

Bar bag
Yet another thief nabbed yet another bag when yet another barfly took her eyes off her purse on June 7.

In what has become a Police Blotter staple, a 26-year-old woman told cops that she was drinking at a bar on Fifth Avenue when, just after midnight, she noticed that her bag had been taken.

In all, she lost lots of cards, \$30 and her Texas driver's license from the bar, which is between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Digital don't
A thief swiped hundreds of dollars in camera equipment from a car parked at a popular hardware megastore near the Gowanus Canal on June 7.

The victim told cops that he left the car — with his Canon digital camera, lens and memory card inside — in the parking lot at around 4:30 p.m. When he returned one hour later, the stuff was gone.

All told, the crook got away with \$1,170 in merchandise.

— Gersh Kuntzman

POLICE BLOTTER

77TH PRECINCT

Prospect Heights

Bar snatch
A thief snatched a purse from the lobby of a Vanderbilt Avenue nightclub on June 8.

The 40-year-old victim told cops that she had left her bag on a couch in the lounge area of the building, which is between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place, at about 10 p.m. She left the room for about 10 minutes, and when she returned, her pocketbook was gone.

The perp got credit cards and a cellphone.

Wheel trouble
A thief broke into a car parked on Underhill Avenue on June 3 and got a nifty guitar.

The 25-year-old owner of the car told cops that he had last checked on his 1995 Nissan Pathfinder, which he left at the corner of Sterling Place, on May 31. When he went to use the car a few days later, the driver's side lock had been broken and the guitar was missing.

— Emily Levin

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge

Coffee break
More than \$40,000 worth of electronics was stolen from a deliveryman's van while he was grabbing a cup of joe on 73rd Street on June 3.

He left the van double-parked near Fifth Avenue at around noon, and returned 15 minutes later to find the passenger window smashed and numerous items — including 130 digital music players, 12 laptops, 12 cameras and 160 memory cards — missing.

On camera
A man robbed a Fort Hamilton Parkway pizzeria of \$300 on June 4, cops said.

The thief was caught on camera taking about the money from the cash register at around 2 a.m.

The crime was discovered at noon, when a worker showed up to find the passenger window smashed.

Time pieces
A thief broke into a Third Avenue apartment and got away with two fancy watches on June 4.

The tenant told cops that he left his apartment, which is at 81st Street, at 9 a.m. — only to return eight hours later to find that the watches were gone.

Police believe the thief entered through a rear window.

Shirt nabber
A shoplifter made off with \$3,500 in shirts from a Fifth Avenue retailer on June 4.

A clerk told police that he saw a man pick up a stack of clothes at around 2 p.m. but didn't see him leave the store, which is near 86th Street.

But a few minutes later, she noticed he — along with the shirts — was gone.

Blackberried
Two thieves made off with eight cellphones from a popular 86th Street cellular provider on June 5.

Cops say the suspects entered the store, which is between Fourth and Fifth avenues, at around 6:30

p.m. After they left a half-hour later, a clerk noticed that the security cords had been severed and the display phones had been taken.

Purse grab
A brazen thief ripped the purse of a woman's shoulder on Fourth Avenue on June 6.

The victim told police that she had dropped her cellphone at about 1 p.m. near the corner of Senator Street, and as she bent over to pick it up, two men approached her from behind and one grabbed her pocketbook.

The hoodlums fled on foot, getting away with \$1,400 and a passport — but not her cellphone.

— Marie Cunningham

94TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Greenpoint

Smackdown
A gang of teenage hoodlums jumped three adolescents as they rode the L train on June 6.

Twelve ruffians boarded the Manhattan-bound train at the Grand Street station, with half entering the car with the victims and the other half boarding the next car. Once the train pulled out of the station at around 9:50 a.m., the hoodlums converged on their marks.

One of the thugs punched an unsuspecting victim in the face. When the victim's friends tried to intervene, the random assault turned into a 12-on-three melee that lasted until the train pulled into the Graham Avenue station.

The hoodlums stole a backpack, an iPod, a Nerf football, a student Metrocard and \$18, but cops said they nabbed none of the alleged miscreants.

Laptop snatch
A hoodlum broke into a Metropolitan Avenue apartment on June 7, a crook took her purse for a tango.

The victim noticed her purse was missing from the club, which is between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue at around 1:15 a.m.

Forty-five minutes later, the club manager found the purse in the men's bathroom, empty. The crook escaped with the victim's iPod, wallet, digital camera, credit cards, IDs, and \$100.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Sunday blues
A young woman fast asleep in her ground-floor room in one of the McKibben Street Lofts, awoke to find that two thugs had snuggled some of her valuable loot.

A friend and witness said she saw the woman enter her room on June 8, but the victim, a

L of a walk

Thugs trailed a Kent Avenue man as he walked home from the L train on June 7, mugging him for everything he had.

When the victim reached the corner of North Fifth Street and Kent at around 3:30 a.m., one of the crooks pressed a blunt object against his back. The crooks snatched the victim's backpack and pilfered his pockets for his \$100, iPod, bank card, wallet, keys and \$60.

I want your MTV
A crook snatched high-end film equipment from the set of a music video on June 6.

The thief struck at some time between 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., escaping from the set, which was at the corner of Bedford Avenue and North Seventh Street, with \$8,050 of fancy electronics.

Dancing fool
While a 22-year-old woman danced at a Mesrobian Street disco on June 7, a crook took her purse for a tango.

The victim noticed her purse was missing from the club, which is between Leonard Street and Manhattan Avenue at around 1:15 a.m.

Forty-five minutes later, the club manager found the purse in the men's bathroom, empty. The crook escaped with the victim's iPod, wallet, digital camera, credit cards, IDs, and \$100.

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BUSCEMI!

Park Slope actor is

ripped off by unidentified thief

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Paper

The brother of renowned big-screen bad boy Steve Buscemi was the victim of an identity theft that dated back to March.

Michael Buscemi told cops on June 1 that he had been alerted that someone had opened up charge accounts in his famous name and run up \$3,822.81.

"This kind of thing never happened to me before — I feel vulnerable," said Buscemi, who like his brother, is an intense actor and Park Slope resident.

Of course, talking about the crime was a bad thing for Buscemi, who told The Brook-

lyn Paper that his upcoming performance on July 26 at Barbes, a Ninth Street club, would make him feel better.

Buscemi's last performance at the club was the well-regarded "Mercury in Retrograde." His brother, of course, is famous for his violent outbursts in "The Sopranos."

In an unrelated, though just as modern, crime, a Sixth Avenue woman told cops on June 2 that someone had opened several credit card accounts in her name, ringing up \$12,000 before she figured it out.

As with all identity thefts in the 78th Precinct, Det. Tony Shy is on both cases.

Michael Buscemi

apartment with three laptop computers, a wireless router, an iPod, and a change bank.

Picking an Apple
Crooks stole an Apple laptop from a Graham Avenue apartment on June 3.

The thugs broke into the apartment, which is between Engert Avenue and Newton Street, between 12:35 p.m. and 3 p.m., while the 38-year-old victim was visiting a friend.

90TH PRECINCT

Williamsburg-Bushwick

Sunday blues
A young woman fast asleep in her ground-floor room in one of the McKibben Street Lofts, awoke to find that two thugs had snuggled some of her valuable loot.

A friend and witness said she saw the woman enter her room on June 8, but the victim, a

Early bird
A woman coming out of a Humboldt Street store early on June 10 was robbed by a man, who grabbed her purse.

The man attacked the victim, a 47-year-old, from behind at around 6 a.m. He got \$48, food stamps, her checkbook and passport.

Diner beware
While eating at a restaurant on Grand Street on June 9, a woman had her wallet removed from her bag by a bald crook.

The 30-year-old woman was enjoying her late dinner at 11 p.m., when her black wallet, containing four credit cards and \$100, disappeared faster than she could say "Checkmate."

Out of town
A tourist from Seattle had a drink, then lost her bag at a popular bar on Lorimer Street on June 8.

The victim told cops that she left her bag on a bar stool and turned around to discover it was gone. The out-of-towner lost her BlackBerry, school ID, and learner's permit, as well as both Euro and dollars.

— Jessica Firger

62ND PRECINCT

Bensonhurst

Bath break
A vicious thief broke into a 17th Avenue apartment, tying up the residents and demanding money on June 5.

The suspect entered the building, which is between Croysey and Bath avenues, through a third-floor fire escape at around 2 a.m., cops said. He then woke up the sleeping tenants, put tape over

their mouths and hands and forced them into a closet, telling them, "This has nothing to do with you, I want the people downstairs."

True to his word, the thief went downstairs and knocked on the door, falsely identifying himself as a police officer. Once he entered the apartment, he forced the residents into the bedroom, hit one of them over the head with a handgun, and forced the second victim to victim to sign a safe.

The perp then fled with more than \$400, some electronics and a cellphone.

Teen rob
A hoodlum cornered and robbed a teenager in an 18th Avenue bodega on June 6.

The 16-year-old was with the corner of 86th Street when a man approached him and demanded that he follow him around the corner. When the victim refused, the suspect followed him into the corner grocery store, where he then grabbed the victim's cellphone before running away.

Bloody b-ball
A confrontation turned violent on a Bay Ridge Parkway basketball court on June 8.

The 33-year-old victim told cops he was shooting hoops in the park, near the corner of Bay

Parkway at around 7 p.m. when he got into a dispute with another man.

As the argument escalated, the suspect suddenly grabbed his razor scooter, pulled back and swung it at the victim, hitting him in the head.

Avenue Oy!
A thug robbed and beat a man on Avenue O on June 8.

The 19-year-old victim was walking down the street at about 11:45 p.m. As he approached East 23rd Street, a man walked up to him and asked for money. When the victim refused to hand over any cash, the suspect punched him four times in the face before running away.

Cell hell
Three men worked stole cellphones from an 86th Street electronics store on June 5.

The store manager told cops that two of the suspects entered the store, which is between Bay Parkway and 21st Avenue, at around 7 p.m. The men began to argue, drawing a large audience of employees and customers.

But it was just a diversion! After about 10 minutes, a third man broke up the argument, and the threesome walked out of the store.

It was then that the manager noticed one of the tricky trio had unplugged the surge protector from the wall, disabling the alarm system, and walked away with 11 cellphones from the counter display.

Purse snatch
Two cunning perps snatched a woman's pocketbook as she rode the bus down Bay Parkway on June 7.

The 70-year-old woman told cops she was standing on the bus when the victim refused, the suspect followed him into the corner grocery store, where he then grabbed the victim's cellphone before running away.

When she got off the bus a few steps later, she noticed her purse was unzipped and her pocketbook was gone.

The thieves got away with exactly \$7, as well as some debit and credit cards.

— Emily Levin

Kicked out of Eden

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The only way to see a million-dollar sunset in Williamsburg is to own a million-dollar condo.

East River State Park — the Northside's only waterfront park — closes before dark, barring Williamsburgers who live in riverside apartments from taking in a jaw-dropping sunset over the Manhattan skyline, park-goers say.

"It's ridiculous — sunset is not for another hour, at least," said James Morehead, who was booted with dozens of other visitors by park employees at around 8 p.m. on June 8.

"It's really a great park. It should stay open as late as possible."

Morehead is not alone in his grouching, according to Community Board 1 member and City Council candidate Evan Thies.

Thies says that the park's short hours, its ban on dogs, and lack of a spotlight near its entrance on Kent Avenue between North Seventh and Ninth Streets, have actually deterred visitors.

"I would go as far as to say that people almost had more access to it when it was an abandoned lot," Thies said. "Even though there was a fence, for years people would just walk through holes in the fence and sun themselves in



Park-goers stream out of East River State Park just when the million-dollar views start paying off. The park closes at sundown.

front of one of the most beautiful views in the world. Now people are actually locked out."

Park officials say they cannot keep the park open after dark because it lacks outdoor lighting.

"We have to close at dusk because of health and safety requirements," said Rachel Gordon of the State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

"We are in the process of doing design work to see how soon we can get outdoor lights there," Gordon said. "But there is no way that it could happen this summer."

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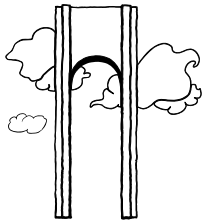
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For sale: Fourth Avenue's old churches

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Bay Ridge's so-called "Faith Avenue" is losing its religion.

Leader of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church says that by this fall they may choose a developer to demolish their 80-year-old house of

worship to make room for private residences atop a smaller ground-floor house of worship, joining a number of Fourth Avenue religious institutions that are downsizing to generate cash for struggling congregations.

Rev. Craig Miller, pastor at Our Saviour's, says that even

with the help of the church's popular pre-school, his dwindling congregation of about 40 cannot afford the \$100,000 annual upkeep on the 80th Street church, not to mention the \$400,000 of work that has been put off because of funding woes.

Miller and his congregation are considering leveling their church and building a ground-floor "storefront" topped by condos that would provide the necessary cash to keep the house of worship alive — a plan that dwindling Fourth Avenue congregations of all denominations are embracing.

The Bay Ridge Jewish Center — which is next door to Our Saviour's — voted almost unanimously last week to tear down an old synagogue that can fit 600 worshippers for a smaller



Our Saviour's Church on Fourth Avenue and 80th Street may soon be up for sale.

temple for its 100 congregants.

The remaining land would be sold to a developer.

Minus the controversy and the

protestors, Our Saviour's plight is no different than that of the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church — dubbed the "Green

Church" for its verdant stone-work — where the congregation wants to demolish the 108-year-old building to make room for a smaller church and condos.

Our Saviour's has not yet decided whether it will demolish its church, but Miller is optimistic about the potential development of land owned by Bay Ridge churches.

"My hope is that in freeing ourselves from the burden of these buildings we'd be able to focus on ministry," he said.

While neighborhood preservationists curse the proposed demolitions, real-estate experts say that churches and condo developers are a match made in heaven.

"When these properties go on sale, it's a payday for the seller and the buyers," said Bay Ridge realtor Tom McGuire.

Powers is out Father/son showdown narrowly averted

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Presumptive Republican congressional candidate Francis H. Powers dodged a bullet this week after his son, Francis M. Powers, failed to win the Libertarian Party's nomination, thus avoiding the prospect of an ugly father-against-son race to succeed disgraced Rep. Vito Fossella.

The short-lived candidacy of the younger Powers, a rock musician, could have spelled trouble for his father, a retired Wall Street bigwig and current MTA board member, by transforming the campaign into just another chapter in this bizarre family feud. And, had the younger Powers actually gotten on the ballot for the seat that covers Bay Ridge and Staten Island, he would've cost his dad votes on Election Day, if only because of the similarities in their names.

Faced with the prospect of running against one of his five children from his first marriage, Powers issued the following statement last week — some of the only words he's shared with the press since becoming the likely GOP nominee.

"I've tried very hard for many years to help my son. Unfortunately, he's rejected everyone's help to live a healthy lifestyle. Regardless of whether he wants to run for Congress, I still stand ready to help him move his life in a positive direction."



Francis Powers, the elder.

The son responded by telling the New York Times that he did not have a drug problem. But, alas, just when the whole thing threatened to take off, the Libertarian Party nominated Susan Overeem, a former receptionist for WABC radio, instead of the younger Powers.

Of course, Democrats are in their own battle to replace Fossella (R-Bay Ridge), whose career ended after being engulfed in scandal from a recent drunk driving arrest and revelations that he fathered a child in an extramarital affair.

Councilman Mike McMahon (D-Staten Island) has been endorsed by both counties' Democratic organizations, though Steve Harrison, a Bay Ridge lawyer who lost to Fossella in 2006 by the closest margin in the congressman's five re-election races, is still gunning for this year's nomination.

A new Key Food?!

But locals wish they could just keep their old one

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

As residents of the south part of Bay Ridge watch helplessly as their beloved Key Food becomes a Walgreens drug store, a new Key Food is coming to the north part of Bay Ridge.

The new market is scheduled to open this fall on Bay Ridge Avenue between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue — about 25 blocks from the Third Avenue Key Food that will close at the end of the month.

As such, shoppers say the new Key Food is no substitute.

"It's just too far, especially for the elderly and the disabled," said Annette Gerage. "I don't have a car. How am I supposed to get there?"

Denise Lodi, who led a drive that gathered 1,400 signatures to retain the Key Food, is happy that her neighbors to the north will get a new grocery store in an age of shuttering supermarkets, but she says it's a little consolation.

"This won't do the residents immediately in the vicinity of [the old Key Food] any good," Lodi said.

To fill the gap, the owner of the new Key Food said he'll

make deliveries to all parts of Bay Ridge.

"I just felt that the area needed a supermarket," said Sammy Abed, who also owns a Key Food in Bensonhurst on Kings Highway.

"When [the Key Food on 95th Street closes], people will have to go to Foodtown," he said, referring to a supermarket at Third Avenue and 91st Street.

"And if they don't like Foodtown, they don't have any choice," he added. "When we open, we'll give people choice."

His soon-to-open grocery is in a building that once housed the Harry's for the Home, a furniture store. It will also have a parking lot.

Residents say that the new supermarket will provide a much-needed alternative for shoppers in the north side of Bay Ridge, who tend to pick up their groceries at mom and pop shops or at the Food City at 74th Street and Third Avenue.

"There is really a big grocery void in this part of the neighborhood," said Josephine Beckmann, district manager of Community Board 10. "This could really fill that void for people who live in the 60s."

— with Marie Cunningham

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H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Swedish cheap-chic clothing store H&M will come to Fulton Mall by next spring — and could be one of the first tenants in a giant new glass-walled mall at Bridge Street. The high-fashion/low-priced store confirmed that it would open by spring, 2009 — and a real-estate source told The Brooklyn Paper that exclusive Fulton Mall developer Al Laboz will be the store's landlord.

That makes sense, given that Laboz owns the landmark Con-way building at 505 Fulton St. and plans a glass mini-mall next door — and Laboz has said for years that H&M is exactly the kind of retailer he wants on a diversified Fulton Mall.

"I want to make Fulton Street Mall into 34th Street, where it is strong retailers giving a quality shopping experience," he told The New York Observer in 2006. "Instead of bringing in a dozen cellphone stores, [we need] a sprinkling of lingerie, women's garments, H&M or other type of stores."

Laboz did not return calls, but his company Web site heralds the 500,000-square-foot glass mall and promises "a major na-



Fulton Mall landowner Al Laboz is already building this glass-walled mini-mall on Fulton Street, which is reported to be the future home of an H&M store.

tional retail store" on its ground floor and luxury residential condominiums above.

H&M's Fulton Mall location would be the company's second in Brooklyn, and would play a part in the area's ongoing transformation from a discount shopping strip into a broader residential community with a mix

of stores. As such, it will be warmly received, retail experts said.

"[H&M] would bring a wonderful flavor to Downtown Brooklyn," said Paula Ingram of Ingram and Hebron Realty, which did not have a role in the deal. "They're very assertive — they do a lot of window

displays, and I think that's what we need."

Fulton Mall is the borough's busiest shopping strip, with 100,000 shoppers each day and new rents soaring, up 50 to 100 percent, according to Ingram and Hebron. More than 14,400 residential units and 1.6 million square feet of retail space are planned for construction by 2012, according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental agency guiding development in the neighborhood.

The H&M news, which follows MTV's announcement that its trendy "Real World" reality show will start filming two blocks away on once-baneful Wiloughby Street, signals the beginning of that shift, Ingram said.

"People used to say, what comes first — the people moving to the neighborhood or a store coming in and people wanting to move?" Ingram said. "You never really know, but once they're down here, it influences many things."

H&M's Kings Plaza Mall store opened in 2001. The Euro-styled retailer opened its first store in Sweden in 1947, and its first U.S. store in Manhattan in 2000.

DIVORCE...

Continued from page 1

frey Sunshine, the supervising judge for matrimonial matters in Kings County.

Instead, he credited his own courtroom for doing a better job than ever, right down to providing excellent service for couples who don't have lawyers.

"We have a very active pro-se office and the word is getting out," said Sunshine. "They don't even take lunch most days." Couples can file uncontested divorces in any county, so if there's a backlog in Manhattan or Queens, many may choose Brooklyn, Sunshine added.

"Brooklyn does do a better job than Queens," Mastrodomenico said. (The clerk from the Queens and Manhattan divorce parts did not return calls.)

• **More violence:** Sunshine thought that part of the increase in divorce cases was due to the decreasing stigma faced by victims of domestic violence.

"More and more, a woman in an abusive relationship knows she has options — and, thankfully, the court has been helpful," Sunshine said. He also credited District Attorney Charles Hynes for his work with domestic violence victims.

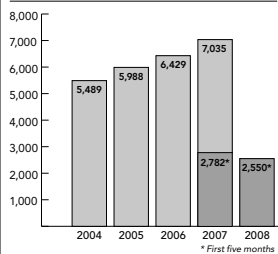
The bottom line? No one knows why Brooklyn is Splitsville, NYC.

"All I know is that I've been doing this for 20 years and business is good," Mastrodomenico said. "But the uptick over the past four years? It's a mystery."

Broken-hearts club

The numbers don't lie: divorces in Brooklyn are up nearly 30 percent in just four years — but what's the reason? It's anyone's guess. Our handy chart captures the sad trend.

Source: Kings County Supreme Court



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Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force, thanks to a Con Edison power outage on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for mucking up subway signals, slowing some lines and closing others.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olett said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's bad luck of the draw."

Con Ed was trying to restore power to about 640 residents and businesses in an area bounded by Pacific, Baltic, Hoyt and Court streets at around noon on Monday. The neighborhood's electricity was fully restored by 5 pm that evening, Con Ed said.

"The heat was probably a factor" for the blackout, Olett said, adding that Con Ed was running above its normal capacity.

But Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down cables, which contributed to the energy snafu, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat.

See HOT1 on page 2

SPLITSVILLE!

Brooklyn divorces up 30%

All our exes live in... Brooklyn? Yes, divorce cases are soaring in Kings County — up a whopping 30 percent since 2003.

The surge covers uncontested divorces — which numbered 5,489 in 2004 and jumped to 7,035 last year. Contested divorces — the ones that get ugly — are up five percent, according to Tom Killiole, the clerk at the Adams Street courthouse.

And no one knows why. It's certainly not Brooklyn's population increase — which is only up two percent so far this decade.

Of course, there are several theories:

- **Good times!** The booming economy between 2003 and 2007 allowed dissatisfied couples to realize that they could now afford to break up.

- **A healthy economy means steady traffic at the divorce court,** said Saul Edelstein, the dean of Brooklyn's di-



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

DIVORCE COURT

vorcer bar, who has been rendering people asunder for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce.' Man, 2003 to 2004 was whoopee time for me."

- **Bad times!** Of course, when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been pretty bad.

- **There tend to be more divorces during bad times,** said Donald Mastrodomenico, another legend of the Brooklyn divorce scene.

- **More hate!** Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love. But that fact doesn't explain why there would be so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites are hating each other more than before," said Jef-

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
for The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year — and traditionalists are outraged.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change for the upcoming July 4 contest comes after the discovery of a trove of "numerous old items and ephemera" near the Nathan's stand at the historic corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues in Coney Island.

"Some random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently unearthed at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the notations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend was won by Jim Mullen with 13 hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 HDDs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap

See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer

Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczchinski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Record heat hit the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over, Cyclones fans.

At long last, nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cyclones were swept in the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 pm at KeySpan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to KeySpan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cyclones in their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

First golfer Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, but Hiz-zoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, a six-hole course built on a formerly empty lot next to the existing 18-hole Dyker Beach public links, offers free and comprehensive lessons for kids, ages 6 to 17.

The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October,

the center is the first of its kind in the country.

"This facility will introduce so many children, who otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to all the benefits of the game, including sportsmanship, self-discipline and enjoying the outdoors," said the mayor.

Eleven-year-old golf buff Erika Cristiano of Bay Ridge agreed, though she put it a different way.

"I like that golf's not like other games," said Cristiano, who caught the golf bug while participating in a less-intensive City Parks Foundation program that gives kids the basics.

But that's nothing compared to the new center, said Gregg Gausler, director of the facility.

"You can teach someone to See FREE GOLF on page 6



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Yousset, 12, followed Hiz-zoner.

IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.



Calm before the storm: Quiet Clinton Street in Red Hook will see an influx of cars once Ikea opens on June 18.

IKEA POLICES HOOK

Retail giant hires 17 cops to handle traffic all summer

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Ikea is so concerned about traffic after its opening in Red Hook on Wednesday, June 18, that the Swedish furniture giant will pay the NYPD to deploy 17 uniformed cops to keep cars flowing through the summer. The Brooklyn Paper has

EXCLUSIVE

learned.

Renting more than a dozen of New York's Finest is part of Ikea's multi-pronged approach to dealing with the thousands of shoppers every weekday, and the estimated 17,000 customers each

weekend day. Its plans also entail free ferry and subway shuttle service to Borough Hall and Smith-Ninth Street — but these forms of transportation may not appeal to shoppers lugging home cumbersome furniture (or stockpiling Swedish meatballs).

For drivers, Ikea has paid the city to put up new signs on highways and local roads directing

drivers to and from the Beard Street mega-store. Clinton Street will be the main artery for drivers to reach the 22-acre waterfront store — Ikea's first in the city.

The anticipated increase in traffic in what has been a remote neighborhood was one of the chief arguments levied by critics six years ago against per-

mitting the store to open.

But Deputy Inspector Michael Kemper, the commanding officer of the 76th Precinct, which covers Red Hook, has heard these unfulfilled hypotheses before, like when the city opened a cruise ship terminal off of Imlay Street in 2006.

"Every time that a ship is in, we have thousands of cars in



OPENS JUNE 18!

and out of Red Hook," Kemper said, adding that the additional traffic is not a big deal. But cruise ships only come in once a week on average — and only during the sailing season — unlike Ikea, which will be open from 10 am to 10 pm, seven days a week.

With traffic expected to be steady and severe, Ikea lined up the 17 cops from the NYPD's "paid detail unit."

That unit is a pool of off-duty cops who make more than \$30 per hour by doing additional, city-sanctioned police work on their time off. Rockefeller Center, Yankee Stadium and synagogues and merchants associations have paid for cops in the past, the NYPD said.

Despite concerns about traffic, Red Hook residents remain pleased at the big blue giant hulking at the southern edge of their hard-scrabble neighborhood, where unemployment is around 20 percent.

Though the company, citing employee privacy, will not divulge how many of its 600 positions have been filled by Red Hookers, neighbors are still lavishing praise.

"It's a large number," said Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook East Tenants Association, who added that she personally knows five people who became managers.

"I'm well satisfied. They kept their promise."

HOT!

Continued from page 1

wave.

"We've seen this before — businesses shuttered as a result of Con Ed's ineptitude," said Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Queens). "How much more do we need to put up with before we say enough's enough? This is what happens when an under-regulated monopoly runs amok."

Olet rejected Gioia's charge, saying that Con Ed spent \$1.7 billion in new cables, transformers and substations across the five boroughs since last September. And the company has handed out \$50,000 in payments to affected stores.

But the money did not prevent a blackout that lasted 24 hours for some people and affected service along the 2, 3, 4, F and G subway lines.

"We have a 2-year-old daughter, so we would have liked to turn on the A/C," said Mike Grassotti, who lives on Smith Street at Warren Street and did not have power during the sweltering Sunday night. It was back by 8:30 am, he said.

But that wasn't soon enough to avoid a disastrous morning rush hour, when service along the F and G lines remained spotty.

"We had to bring in generators to run the signals," said Charles Seaton, spokesman for MTA Transit. "But they don't produce as much power as Con Ed."

Even as critics say that Con Ed is 0-for-1 so far this year, the state Department of Public Services, which regulates the energy giant, says it's too early to pass judgment.

"An assessment [of the blackout] would be premature," said agency spokeswoman Ann Dalton, who added, "They are being watched on a daily basis, 24/7."

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H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Swedish cheap-chic clothing store H&M will come to Fulton Mall by next spring — and could be one of the first tenants in a giant new glass-walled mall at Bridge Street. The high-fashion/low-priced store confirmed that it would open by spring, 2009 — and a real-estate source told The Brooklyn Paper that exclusive Fulton Mall developer Al Laboz will be the store's landlord.

That makes sense, given that Laboz owns the landmark Con-way building at 505 Fulton St. and plans a glass mini-mall next door — and Laboz has said for years that H&M is exactly the kind of retailer he wants on a diversified Fulton Mall.

"I want to make Fulton Street Mall into 34th Street, where it is strong retailers giving a quality shopping experience," he told The New York Observer in 2006. "Instead of bringing in a dozen cellphone stores, [we need] a sprinkling of lingerie, women's garments, H&M or other type of stores."

Laboz did not return calls, but his company Web site heralds the 500,000-square-foot glass mall and promises "a major national retail store" on its ground floor and luxury residential condominiums above.

H&M's Fulton Mall location would be the company's second in Brooklyn, and would play a part in the area's ongoing transformation from a discount shopping strip into a broader residential community with a mix of stores.

As such, it will be warmly received, retail experts said. "[H&M] would bring a wonderful flavor to Downtown Brooklyn," said Paula Ingram of Ingram and Hebron Realty, which did not have a role in the deal. "They're very assertive — they do a lot of window



Fulton Mall landowner Al Laboz is already building this glass-walled mini-mall on Fulton Street, which is reported to be the future home of an H&M store.

displays, and I think that's what we need."

Fulton Mall is the borough's busiest shopping strip, with 100,000 shoppers each day and new rents soaring, up 50 to 100 percent, according to Ingram and Hebron. More than 14,400 residential units and 1.6 million square feet of retail space are planned for construction by 2012, according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental agency guiding development in the neighborhood.

The H&M news, which follows MTV's announcement that its trendy "Real World" reality show will start filming two blocks away on once-baneful Wiloughby Street, signals the beginning of that shift, Ingram said.

"People used to say, what comes first — the people moving to the neighborhood or a store coming in and people wanting to move?" Ingram said. "You never really know, but once they're down here, it influences many things."

H&M's Kings Plaza Mall store opened in 2001. The Euro-styled retailer opened its first store in Sweden in 1947, and its first U.S. store in Manhattan in 2000.

DIVORCE...

Continued from page 1

frey Sunshine, the supervising judge for matrimonial matters in Kings County.

Instead, he credited his own courtroom for doing a better job than ever, right down to providing excellent service for couples who don't have lawyers.

"We have a very active pro-se office and the word is getting out," said Sunshine. "They don't even take lunch most days." Couples can file uncontested divorces in any county, so if there's a backlog in Manhattan or Queens, many may choose Brooklyn, Sunshine added.

"Brooklyn does do a better job than Queens," Mastrodomenico said. (The clerk from the Queens and Manhattan divorce parts did not return calls.)

• **More violence:** Sunshine thought that part of the increase in divorce cases was due to the decreasing stigma faced by victims of domestic violence.

"More and more, a woman in an abusive relationship knows she has options — and, thankfully, the court has been helpful," Sunshine said. He also credited District Attorney Charles Hynes for his work with domestic violence victims.

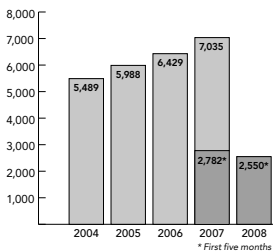
The bottom line? No one knows why Brooklyn is Splitville, NYC.

"All I know is that I've been doing this for 20 years and business is good," Mastrodomenico said. "But the uptick over the past four years? It's a mystery."

Broken-hearts club

The numbers don't lie: divorces in Brooklyn are up nearly 30 percent in just four years — but what's the reason? It's anyone's guess. Our handy chart captures the sad trend.

Source: Kings County Supreme Court



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Starbucks names shake for boro

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Manhattan has its eponymous bourbon and vermouth. And Brooklyn now has its... ice milk and caramel syrup? Apparently, a Starbucks vanilla bean frappuccino — with a caramel swirl! — will be our borough's star in the culinary firmament.

Created by a Starbucks district manager after noticing high school girls customizing the traditional vanilla bean frappuccino, "The Brooklyn" consists of nothing more than the ubiquitous chain's existing drink, enhanced with a bit more sugar. A Starbucks on Court Street broke the "news" this week by putting out an A-frame sign reading, "The new all time favorite drink... the Brooklyn." Oh, and did we mention that it's 40 more cents (\$4.90 for a venti!) — and 20 more calories (620, but who's counting?) — than the standard frappuccino.

The whole thing may feel like a scam — or a way for Starbucks

beans bean counters to stave off the vanilla bean frappuccino blues — but hours after the sign was deployed outside that Court Street Starbucks, customers were genuinely abuzz (and there's no caffeine in a "Brooklyn," either).

"It's the latest craze. Everyone's talking about it," said Park Slope resident Tanya Mikala. "It's merely blended milk, vanilla powder, crushed ice, and whipped cream."

And that all-important caramel swirl.



Given their own addiction to sugary summertime fluff, it's no surprise that Hollywood stars have already latched onto "The Brooklyn."

Denzel Washington and John Travolta apparently quaffed a few during the filming of "The Taking of Pelham 123" in the neighborhood last month, in production assistant said.

No word on whether the stars came back for seconds.

But real Brooklynites weren't convinced.

"This is news to me," said

Greg Jensen, a messenger. "I didn't know vanilla and caramel had anything to do with Brooklyn."

Didn't know?! Caramel is merely burned sugar — and if nothing else, the history of Brooklyn is the history of American sugar refining. By the late 19th-century, sugar plants here produced more than half the sugar consumed in the United States.

And now, thanks to Starbucks, we're consuming it back.

— with Jessica Firger

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The power of action.

Another new hotel set for Gowanus

The Brooklyn Paper

Sure, you see a vacant lot in this picture of 611 DeGraw St., between Third and Fourth avenues — but a developer sees yet another hotel in the so-called Gowanus Canal Hotel District.

An unidentified builder just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — which can support a



A developer just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — and plans a hotel. Such inns can be built on manufacturing-zoned land, though some height restrictions apply.

10,000-square-foot hotel under current zoning.

Ken Freeman at Massey Knudsen, which brokered the deal, said the manufacturing-zoned lot sold for so much because the new owner "is capable of taking advantage of the available air rights," most likely up to eight stories.

The hotel is one of five that are now proposed for the area, joining Hotel Le Bleu, the Holiday Inn Express and the Comfort Inn that are already operating.

The sale of the lot is likely to draw fire from Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who recently called for a moratorium on new hotels on manufacturing-zoned land in the Gowanus corridor.

— Gersh Kuntzman

FREE GOLF

Continued from page 1

swing in the park, but they don't know to play," said Gauschoer. "But it's like chess, you need to learn more than how to move each piece."

The center is not just about learning the Inner Game, but also helping urban kids take advantage of the many golf scholarships (who knew there were golf scholarships?) to colleges around the country.

Perhaps that explains the location — Dyker Beach is where Earl Woods once played with his son before he became a superstar named Tiger.

They say that golf is a long walk spoiled. But in order to have this walk spoiled, you'll have to drive. The new center is midway between the R train's 86th Street station and the M train at 18th Avenue in Bensonhurst. Hopping the No. 8 bus from either station will get you there — eventually.

Hannah Yousef, a 12-year-old from Staten Island, is lucky. Her mom said she'll drive her to Bay Ridge three times a week to take advantage of the free schooling.

The good news is that kids won't be carrying their clubs all the way from the subway. Callaway, a golf equipment manufacturer, has provided fancy sticks that stay at the center. One-quarter of the \$8 million cost came from city taxpayers. The rest is a combination of both private and public grants, including Con Edison.

After his ceremonial putt (swing and a miss!), the orange-sweater-clad Bloomberg played a round at the big boy's course next door with chef Mario Batali (with his trademark Cross) and comic Jimmy Fallon (white cardigan) in a fundraiser to help solicit an additional \$4 million.

Meanwhile, instructor Carmine Filocamo gave his first lesson.

"I can't believe they built this place for kids," said Filocamo, who learned the game at age 8.

"They're not being taught by their uncle who is an accountant here. They'll learn the game for real."

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenpoint kickball hero arrested last month for totting a buccaneer's sword through a Macy's department store made his triumphant return to McCarran Park on Sunday, leading his team to a rare victory.

After a night behind bars and two weeks off the field, Lance Jackson, 29, logged two hits (err... kicks) and a run scored, helping the Pirates (officially Los Piratas Mecánicos) beat Regression Aggression, 5-3.

"I'm just happy to be back with my team, winning games," Jackson said after the victory, as self-effacing as ever.

Jackson was separated from his squad when cops nabbed him as he shopped with his girlfriend on



Kickball — and machete — hero Lance Jackson.

May 23, charging the lanky Greenpointer with weapons possession for carrying the sword, which he maintains was merely a prop for that evening's games. Jackson missed those contests while his case was being processed.

The arrest sent shockwaves through the 33-team Brooklyn Kickball league, where players purrivalves aside to stand behind Jackson and his squad, which has a reputation for rabble-rousing.

The Pirates, with their 3-6 record, are one of the weaker teams in the league. Known more for antics than athleticism, the team often interrupts games to throw water balloons and shoot fireworks.

But with Jackson's return, the only things the Pirates were throwing was strikes, and the only explosions came off their insteps — and co-captain Hector Castillo said Jackson was the catalyst.

"It's great to have him back," Castillo said. "He helps with the points and he helps with the morale. He's a high-ranking Pirate."



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Darrin's Discovery Wines for June!

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Remember that delightful dry rosé you sipped in Provence? This is it! This is the one to chill and enjoy on a warm day: not a trace of sweetness, but plenty of aromas of ripe strawberries and rose petals. This pink charmer makes every meal into a picnic, and every picnic into a summer celebration! Pour a glass with cold roasted chicken, sandwiches, cold cuts, cheeses, pâte ... or just enjoy it with friends while watching the world go by. Ahhh ... life is good!

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Fred Malwitz, 79

Ridgite was father of Paper manager

for The Brooklyn Paper

Fred Malwitz, a consummate family man, Mets fan and father of Brooklyn Paper bookkeeper Lisa Malwitz, has died.

The cause of death has not been confirmed, but Malwitz, 79, was apparently the victim of a stroke on June 5, his daughter Lisa said.

A man of simple Brooklyn passions — baseball, fishing, gambling and hating the New York Yankees — Malwitz was nothing short of “the anchor in our family,” said Charles Malwitz, the middle of Malwitz’s three children, who remembered his father as a hardworking, caring and optimistic 6-foot man.

Frederick William Malwitz II was born May 29, 1929, in his parents’ house at 10 Church Avenue in Flatbush. He attended Erasmus Hall, the early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

Friends described the British expatriate as full of life, creative, and with a warm smile. Despite her fight with cancer, Green went ahead and opened her wine- and raw-bar hotspot at Henry and Cranberry streets in January, and received acclaim for it.

A former dancer, musician, and — at one point, an exotic bird importer — Green moved to Cobble Hill from Manhattan in the 1960s. She helped run La Boulbaisse, a French restaurant on Atlantic Avenue that rode a wave of new restaurants and nightlife in the strip between the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway and Clinton Street.

Beloved Brooklyn Heights restaurateur Amanda Green, who started La Boulbaisse and, more recently, the Wine Bar at 50 Henry Street, died early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

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A longtime close friend, Steve Manes, described Green as a “natural” for the hospitality business. “She was one of those people [who], once you met her, if she told you, you were on her list — she’d be calling,” said longtime close friend, Steve Manes.

Green is survived by her two children, Nick, 13, and Lella, 9; and her mother and stepfather, David Sandels.



Fred Malwitz with his daughter, Lisa.

as vice president of international operations. He retired in 1989 to care for his wife of 44 years. Mathilde — also known as Lee — died of cancer in 1994.

The couple had met on a blind date. Friends said that Malwitz loved his family most of all, but the Mets were a close second.

“His last words were not, ‘I love you,’ but, ‘I hate the Yankees,’” his daughter said.

He is survived by his three children, Frederick William Malwitz, III, Charles Florian Malwitz, and Lisa Jayne Malwitz; an older brother, Norman Malwitz; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson, Austin Malwitz.

— Jessica Fingar

Amanda Green, 49

Restaurateur and Heights bon-vivant

The Brooklyn Paper

Beloved Brooklyn Heights restaurateur Amanda Green, who started La Boulbaisse and, more recently, the Wine Bar at 50 Henry Street, died early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

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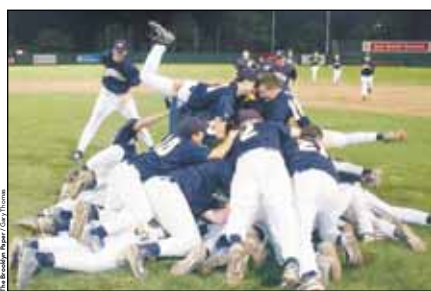


Last Christmas, Amanda Green with her children — Lella, 9, and Nick, 13.

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— Sarah Portlock



HOT DOG...

Continued from page 1

paper. One tantalizing hint, however, is a second note that lists all the newspapers that needed to be contacted with the contest’s final results: the New York Times, the New York Evening Post, and the Brooklyn Standard Union.

The Standard Union folded in the 1930s. Shea said he didn’t know the date of the scribbles, but said the very discovery of the document led to another astounding revelation.

We put together a team of experts to determine the validity of the scribbles and then, through the use of what I believe scholars call “a Google search,” we discovered a New York Times article from 1986 that referred to the contest as taking 10 minutes.

Major League Eating President Richard Shea — George’s brother — said the Times article, coupled with the scribbles, provided compelling evidence that the contest’s traditional length was actually 10 minutes, not the 12 minutes that have been the standard for at least two decades (see chart).

“It had David Dunlap’s byline, and he’s a credible reporter,” Richard Shea said. “Plus, it mentioned that the winner ate his hot dogs and buns, so clearly he got the details correct.”

When contacted by The Brooklyn Paper, Dunlap probed the recesses of his knife-sharp mind and declared that his 1986 article was accurate.

“Absent any credible evi-

dence to the contrary, such as a correction in a subsequent issue of the Times, my operating assumption is that the [1986] story is correct. We take such care in reporting such things accurately, you know.”

The decision to put the contest on a diet is already being condemned by traditionalists — even though the tradition may indeed be 10 minutes.

“Records have to mean something,” said longtime contest watcher — and former Frankster — Lawrence Gardner. “That’s always the talk around July 4: ‘Will [Takeru] Kobayashi break his record again? Can a human body really eat 66 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes? It’s always about those 12 minutes.’”

Fellow fan Kirk Hirsch echoed that thought: “Perhaps Major League Baseball should start playing seven-inning games.”

Keeping world champ Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, who downed 66 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes last July 4, said the change will have profound implications on the man-eat-dog world of gustatory gluttony.

Indeed, Chestnut, surged past six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi only in the last few minutes of the contest. “I think it’s a ridiculous change,” the champ said, via cellphone from his home near San Jose, Calif.

But he did not think the shorter format would affect his game.

“Every eater can get to his capacity in 10 minutes, or in



Six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi nearly experienced reflexes contrary to swallowing towards the end of the 2007 Nathan’s contest — and some competitive eating fans think his near disaster motivated the move to a 10-minute contest.

even less time,” he said. “I’ll just have to get to my capacity faster.”

That, perhaps, is exactly what the Shea brothers should be worried about, said one eater, who requested anonymity because he is still active on a circuit that includes contests in lobster rolls, ice cream, jalapeño peppers and pain-seared cow brains.

“The contest is ultimately about marketing Nathan’s, and there have been too many close calls lately.”

True, even the great Kobayashi has exhibited reflexes

Win some, lose some

Xaverian HS players (left) celebrated their city Catholic High School Athletic Association championship victory over Moore Catholic last Sunday at St. John’s University where the Clippers beat the Mavericks 7-1. A few days later (right), Brooklyn Paper Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli was gunned down in a fairly close play in the Scribes charity game lost to the Cyclones front office. The mostly out-of-shape writers actually gave the ‘Clones staffers a scare, losing 6-5, after rallying in the final frame. Alas, the game



ended on a deep (deep!) fly ball to centerfield that was snared in a miracle catch. Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was 0-2 on the day, mostly due to an umpire with an extremely generous strike zone. In their

The 12-minute era

The return of the Nathan’s hot-dog-eating contest to a 10-minute format that existed at least through 1986 brings to a close the sport’s “12-minute era.” Here is a recap of what experts believe was competitive eating’s golden age (* indicates then-world-record).

YEAR	WINNER	HDBs
1990	Mike “The Scholar” DeVito	16*
1991	Frank “Hollywood” Dellarosa	21*
1992	Frank “Hollywood” Dellarosa	19
1993	DeVito	17
1994	DeVito	20
1995	Ed “The Maspeth Monster” Krachie	19 1/2
1996	Krachie	22 1/4*
1997	Hirofumi Nakajima	24 1/2*
1998	Nakajima	19
1999	Steve Keiner	20 1/4
2000	Kazutoyo “The Rabbit” Arai	25 1/8*
2001	Takeru Kobayashi	50*
2002	Kobayashi	50 1/2*
2003	Kobayashi	44 1/2
2004	Kobayashi	53 1/2*
2005	Kobayashi	49
2006	Kobayashi	53 3/4*
2007	Joey “Jaws” Chestnut	66*

“That’s not the issue,” he said.

“The issue is history, and the preponderance of the evidence now suggests that the contest was always 10 minutes.”

“It’s like the Constitution,” he added. “Are you a strict constructionist or not?”

Shea was asked whether he was “done,” he said. “What’s

a strict constructionist — is that Scalia? I’m not sure. But on this, I am a strict constructionist.”

Shea may have to eat those words. Two earlier Times articles, one from 1972 and another from 1974, referred to three-and-a-half-minute contests that were won by eaters who downed 14 and 10 hot dogs and buns respectively.

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Katz has helped countless numbers of people in his 25 years as a clinical social worker and therapist. The average cost per session with ranges from \$70 to \$79.

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

June 14, 2008

What's in store?

Red Hook's IKEA has Swedish style with a Brooklyn accent

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

Red Hook might not be the textbook definition of "the great outdoors," but on Monday, June 16, expect to see people descending upon the neighborhood with camping gear.

Mike Baker — manager of the Brooklyn IKEA store which opens on Wednesday, June 18 — told GO Brooklyn that he expects to see hundreds of people waiting in line for days in anticipation of the grand opening of the Swedish lifestyle behemoth's 281st store, and its very first in New York City.

And they wouldn't be as crazy and you'd think. The first 35 adults in line will receive a free sofa at the grand opening, and the next 100 will take home a complimentary armchair.

While some will be going home without a free couch, there will be lots of winner. Prizes, such as tropical plants, gift cards and balloon animals for the kids, will be doled out for the entire first week.

Designed for you

When all the plants are dead and balloon giraffes popped, though, what Brooklyn will be left with is a prize in itself. The 346,000-square-foot store, stocked with over 10,000 products, is more than just another big box plunked down in the red-hot-for-retail borough.

The store even offers childcare, in Smaland, which is decked out in a contemporary forest theme.

Calling Kings County "the heart of New York City," Baker walked GO Brooklyn through the store and showed off the usual wares — from inexpensive, do-it-yourself furniture to high-end, designer kitchens — but also touted the way that Brooklyn inspired this store's design.

This IKEA features three mock apartments: a 375-square-foot dwelling that made everyone think — and one person say out loud — "Why can't I do this to my tiny apartment?"; a 590-square-foot, two-bedroom, based on a brownstone apartment in Carroll Gardens; and finally, a 275-square-foot loft that, while crowded, had enough IKEA-brand storage options crammed into it that you might never notice you're living in a breadbox.

Additionally, the store features 45 room sets in which absolutely everything — from the drapes to the lightbulbs — are available for purchase.

If the only design ideas you're interested in are your own, that's fine, too. The store offers everything from throw pillows to entertainment centers, and even has employees on hand to help you lay out your own kitchens and bedrooms.



IKEA's ideas: The Swedish superstore, opening June 18 in Red Hook, features furnished rooms (top right and center), custom kitchens and Brooklyn-inspired apartments. The 346,000-square-foot store even offers childcare in Smaland (top left). If you're not in the market for home goods, the 450-seat cafe (bottom left), serving Swedish delicacies at wallet-friendly prices, and a jaw-dropping view of the harbor, are worth the trip.

Swedish eats

IKEA also scores points for knowing what every Brooklynite wants more than anything: a little bit of outdoor space. And while there are potted plants that you could perch on your fire escape, or glasses that you could drag up to the roof, the store does you one better.

Outside of the massive building, on the Red Hook waterfront, sits a six-acre esplanade complete with benches, tables and a stunning view of the Statue of Liberty and the harbor.

Sure, the 450-seat restaurant, which serves inexpensive breakfast, lunch and dinner options, has a similar view, but GO Brooklyn would rather stock up on snacks at the mar-

SHOPPING

IKEA (1 Beard St. at Onsego Street in Red Hook) will open at 9 a.m. on June 18. Customers can begin waiting in line at 9 a.m. on June 16. For information, call (718) 246-4532 or visit www.ikea-usa.com.

ket downstairs and chomp away at frescos.

Delivery options

Another perk? While you're nosing around "pepparkakor" (thin Swedish ginger cookies) and drinking an elderberry juice outside, IKEA can arrange to have your purchases couriered to your home.

For \$39, you can cram a three-cubic-foot box with your haul and have it delivered to your stop (additional boxes are \$10), and for \$79, the big stuff can be delivered day-of or next day.

So, while shuttle bus service will be running regularly to the Smith-Ninth Street stop on the F and G trains, the Ninth Street R train station, the Fourth Avenue stop on the F train, and to Borough Hall, this is a brilliant idea.

Why? Because mass transit to the store is hit or miss. After we left IKEA, we waited for the B77 bus stop for about 10 minutes before calling a car service.

That was good enough for carrying a messenger bag, but with a sack full of smartly designed new toys? That would be an adventure.

DANCE

Site specific

The Artichoke Dance Company is letting you direct its latest show, with its innovative, interactive production, "U R HERE," which allows you to choose the time, location and music of each performance.

Here's how it works: This weekend, Artichoke dancers will perform ensemble dances and duets at outdoor locations in Park Slope. Just load up your mp3 player with the company's original music compositions, then go to any of the sites — where dances start about every 10 minutes, choose your music, and watch what unfolds!



Lynn Neuman, the company's director, said that the concept was intended to "bring the show closer to [the audience] and involve them more. The audience is actually using them as tools to create their own experience," she said.

Artichoke Dance Company presents "U R HERE" at 2 p.m. on June 14 and June 15, at J.L. Byrne Park (Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets, Park Slope) and will continue at five more locations in the surrounding neighborhood. Admission is free, but you can rent an mp3 player for \$10 at the Old Stone House in J.L. Byrne Park. For more information, a map of the event, and to download music compositions, visit www.artichokedance.org.

— Kate Ray

ART

Block party

This weekend is the last opportunity for visitors to see the Brooklyn Museum's breathtaking exhibition of Japanese woodblock prints, "Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print, 1770-1900."

The show is a truly vintage collection of pop art by members of the Utagawa school of artists, featuring dramatic caricatures of famous kabuki actors — "there already was a celebrity culture," museum curator Joan Cummins told GO Brooklyn, to portraits of beautiful women, to stunning landscapes.

(A detail of Toyohara Kunichika's 1894 portrait of actor Ichikawa Sadanji I is at right) The woodblock prints were snapped up by the masses because of their artistry and affordability, and these predecessors to comic book art still have the power to captivate.

In addition to the mass produced loose prints, the exhibit also features books of prints with exquisite details — like thinner carvings, embossed pages and unusual inks — that were commissioned by private patrons. Lest you think that graphic art is just for kids, be warned, there's some sexy stuff here, too.

Cummins explained that during this peaceful era in Japan's history "there was a lot of social and political content, but not erotica or violent content."

"Utagawa: Masters of the Japanese Print, 1770-1900," is on exhibit through June 15 in the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy, at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Admission is \$8. For information, call (718) 638-5000 or visit www.brooklynmuseum.org.

— Lisa J. Curtis

EVENTS

To the streets

Traffic will be blocked all weekend in Park Slope, and this time it won't be thanks to a doubtless stroller barreling down Fifth Avenue.

On Saturday, June 14, the 12th annual "Brooklyn Pride" activities kick off at 9 a.m. with a 10K run in Prospect Park and a full day of events — including a street fair, parade (starting at 8:30 p.m. at 15th Street and Prospect Park West, and ending at Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Place) and after party — to celebrate Brooklyn's gay community.

But don't stay out too late, because on the next day, you could be in "Seventh Heaven."

The annual street fair, run by the Park Slope Chamber of Commerce, will set up food, music, games, shopping and more along Seventh Avenue, from Flatbush Avenue to 16th Street.

So whether you're joining in or just watching the crowds go by, Park Slope is the place to be for outdoor action this weekend.

"Brooklyn Pride" will begin at 9 a.m. on June 14 at 15th Street and Prospect Park West. All activities are free. For information and a full schedule, visit www.brooklynpride.org. "Seventh Heaven" will begin at 11 a.m. on June 15 at the intersection of Flatbush and Seventh avenues. Admission is free. For information, call (718) 234-1165.

Big country

The big city is about to get a taste of the country.

BrooklynCountry.com, the Web site and digital headquarters for country music artists and fans from Kings County, is celebrating its re-launching with a party at Natural Selection on June 15.

The party will feature a tribute show to honky-tonk legend Waylon Jennings (inset), in honor of his 71st birthday, and country music bands from all over Brooklyn will play some of Jennings's most popular songs.

On the bill are folk guitarist Jon Ikin, Sean Kershaw, Serena Jean and The Whiskey Trippers, and The Newton Gang, as well as performances by Uncle Leon of The Albion, Alex Battles of Whiskey Rebellion, and more.

"If you know [Waylon Jennings's] music, then you're going to have a great time," said JD Duarte of The Newton Gang (pictured, left) and co-director of BrooklynCountry.com. And even



if you don't, he added, "It should be something you walk away from wanting to do again."

And don't forget to look up BrooklynCountry.com, which will publish music event calendars, offer discounted tickets, and host its own monthly events and yearly awards show.

BrooklynCountry.com's "Honky Tonk Hero: A Tribute to Waylon Jennings" starts at 7 p.m. on June 15 at Natural Selection (70 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg). Tickets are \$5. For more information, visit www.myspace.com/brooklyncountryfair or call (718) 782-5188.

— Kate Ray



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SATURDAY June 14

Fun to be 1
There are a lot of babies in Brooklyn, but the cutest by far is Akhause, the New York Aquarium's itty-bitty walrus. And today, he's celebrating his first birthday with live music, arts and crafts, storytelling and animal feedings.

Noon to 4 pm. New York Aquarium (Surf Avenue and West 8th Street in Coney Island). \$12, \$9 kids. For information, call (718) 265-FISH or visit www.nyaquarium.com.

SUNDAY June 15

Dear old dad
It's Father's Day, and therefore time to do something special for pop. Maybe you've made plans to take him out to dinner or to a ballgame, but if you're still stuck for a gift, and he's wise to the fact that he isn't the only one with a "Dad" mug — check out page 9 for some great, last-minute gift ideas.

Noon to 4 pm. New York Aquarium (Surf Avenue and West 8th Street in Coney Island). \$12, \$9 kids. For information, call (718) 265-FISH or visit www.nyaquarium.com.

TUESDAY June 17

Batter up
The borough's pride and joy, the Brooklyn Cyclones, return to Key-span Park today in their first game of the season, against the much-reviled Staten Island Yankees. Prior to the SI Yanks getting clobbered, Grammy-winning rocker (for the half-pint set) Dan Zanes will sing the national anthem.

7 pm. Key-span Park (1904 Surf Ave. at West 19th Street in Coney Island). \$7-\$14. For information, call (718) 449-4497 or visit www.brooklyncyclones.com.

WEDNESDAY June 18

What's in store?
The wait is finally over! Today, IKEA opens in Red Hook, and Brooklynites will no longer be forced to travel to the far-flung hamlets of Long Island or New Jersey to pick up do-it-yourself furniture or bags of surprisingly tasty, frozen Swedish meatballs.

9 am. IKEA (1 Beard St. at Chicago Street in Red Hook). For information, call (718) 246-4532 or visit www.ikea.com.

FRIDAY June 20

That 'Ting'
British electro-pop duo The Ting Tings have been rocking up good press across the pond thanks to their feisty eponymous debut album, and tonight, they're hitting Southpaw. If our hunch is right, the next time they play here, it will be at a stadium, so catch 'em now.

9 pm. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope). \$12 in advance, \$14 at the door. For information, call (718) 230-0238 or visit www.spsounds.com.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, JUNE 14

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BROOKLYN PRIDE: Annual LGBT celebration features 10K run, street fair and parade. 9 am at Prospect Park West and 15th Street. www.brooklynpride.com. Free.
CULTURAL MIX: Prospect Park Alliance Youth Council showcases the diversity of NYC. Event features dance, food and music from around the world. 11 am to 4 pm, Bowling Green at the Prospect Park Parade Ground, corner of Cotten and Coney Island avenues. (718) 965-8999. Free.
WALKING TOUR: Explore Fort Greene's historic district. Noon. Meet at Fort Greene Park Visitor's Center, near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.

HIPHOP BLOCK PARTY: Dancing in the Streets hosts its second annual block party, featuring Chicago's all-star dance crew Footwork/KiNGz. African, Latin and Caribbean music accompanies performances. Block party from 1 pm to 2 pm, performances from 2 pm to 3 pm, music for free-style dance from 3 pm to 6:30 pm; performances from 4:30 pm to 6 pm; dance party from 6 pm to 7 pm. Call 311 for info. Free.
SUNSET CRUISE: NY Audition Society and the American Littrary Society host a narrated tour of the backwater marshes of Jamaica Bay. See nesting peregrine falcons, osprey, terns and more. Wine and cheese reception follows. 5 pm to 8 pm. Reservations required. (718) 318-9344.
POETRY READING: A Public-Space hosts Peter Gazi, Matthew Haney and Cathy Park Hong who read from their works. 7 pm. 323 Dean St. (718) 858-0067. Free.

PERFORMANCE

DANCE: Artichoke Dance Company presents "U R Here," a create-your-own-performance adventure. \$10 for Mo3 player rental, which has the music of 12 composers and a map of performance locations. 2 pm, 11 Byrnes Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets. (212) 971-5873 or visit www.artichokedance.org.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents DJ Kool Here and Little Jackie. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.
CULTURAL ARTS SHOWCASE: Italoays 19th Annual Cultural Arts Showcase. "The Last Man Bango," a production of performing arts and culture. \$25, \$20. 7 pm. Walt Whitman Theatre at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-4600.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN:

Performing arts festival presents Balala Kumbala and friends in a South African musical performance. \$3 suggested donation. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park band shell. Call 311 for info. West at Ninth Street. (718) 965-8999.

ONE-MINUTE PLAYS:

Brooklyn College's Department of Theater presents "Ghosts (Ghosts in 60 Seconds)." No fewer than 50 new plays, each lasting 60 seconds, are performed by a cast of Brooklyn College theater BFA and MFA students, alumni and professional guest artists. \$7. 8 pm. New Workshop Theater on the Brooklyn College campus, one block from the intersection of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues. (718) 951-5000 ext. 2768.

BARGE MUSIC:

Classical music program of works by Beethoven. \$35, \$15 students. 8 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, 2nd Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

RYAN REPERTORY:

presents "Kong," a new performance work. \$20, \$18 seniors. 8 pm. Harry Warren Theater, 2445 Bath Ave. (718) 996-4800.

GALLERY PLAYERS:

hosts its 11th annual Black Box play festival. "Tide, Tide and Little Boats." 8 pm. Also, "Hopes/Arbors." 8 pm. 199 14th St. \$18, \$14 for seniors and students. (718) 995-6517.

DANCE:

Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents "The Accusations." \$15, \$8 students. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

THEATER SERIES:

The Brick Theater and Third Lower Productions hosts the horror mystery series "Freaky Dead!" Episode 8. 8 pm. 199 14th St. \$18, \$14 for seniors and students. (718) 907-6189.

LIVE MUSIC:

Balala Kumbala, Paul Simon's "Graceland" bass player, with his jazz trio. 10 pm. 514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

OTHER

ARTISAN MARKET:

hosted by Fort Greene Park Conservancy. 9 am to 6 pm. Fort Greene Park, Dumbo, Avenue sidewalk perimeter. (718) 855-8175.

BOOK FAIR:

Brooklyn's third annual "Books Plus" sale features books, T-shirts, music cassettes and more. Noon to 5 pm. 464 14th St. (718) 768-3953.

PIER SHOW:

Last weekend to see Brooklyn Museum Artists Coalition's exhibit. "Spring Ahead" featuring new works by more than 350 artists. 1 pm to 8 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

RELAY FOR LIFE:

Honor cancer survivors and remember those lost to the disease during a day-in-the-evening fundraising event. 2 pm to 11 pm. PS 303, corner of Fourth Avenue and 6th Street. (718) 237-8551.

ART SHOW:

Concubine Volkening, Park Slope artist and mother with brain cancer, presents 20 new paintings. "In Memory." See 9 DAYS on page 10.

CIVIC CALENDAR

MONDAY, JUNE 16

94th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. North York Bank 804 Manhattan Ave., at Calver Street, in Greenpoint. Call (718) 383-5298 for info.
Community Board 4, Housing and Human Services Committee. On the agenda: Making New York more accessible to older people. Cobble Hill Health Center (200 Henry St., between Congress and Warren streets in Cobble Hill). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for info.
Community Board 2, Parks and Recreation Committee. Brooklyn Hospital (Flatbush Avenue and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for info.
Community Board 10. Full board meeting. Shore Hill Community Room (9000 Shore Rd., at Narrows Avenue in Bay Ridge). 7:15 pm. Call (718) 765-6827 for info.

TUESDAY, JUNE 17

68th Precinct Community Council. Monthly meeting. 68th Precinct station-house (633 65th St., between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge). 7:30 pm. Call (718) 839-4200.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18

Community Board 7. Full board meeting. Board offices (4201 Fourth Ave., at 43rd Street in Sunset Park). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 854-0003 for info.

THURSDAY, JUNE 19

Community Board 6 and Parks Committee. On the agenda: "Spunge Park." PS 15 (71 Sullivan St., between Richards and Van Brunt streets in Red Hook). 6:30 pm. Call (718) 643-3027 for info.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20

Community Board 2 Transportation and Public Safety Committee. St. Francis College (180 Remsen St., between Clinton and Guy streets in Brooklyn Heights). 6 pm. Call (718) 596-5410 for info.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

84th Precinct Community Council. 84th Precinct station-house (301 Gold St., between Tech Place and Tillary Street). 7 pm. Call (718) 875-6890 for info.

PERFORMANCE

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Brooklyn's third annual "Books Plus" sale features books, T-shirts, music cassettes and more. Noon to 5 pm. 464 14th St. (718) 768-3953.

PIER SHOW:

Last weekend to see Brooklyn Museum Artists Coalition's exhibit. "Spring Ahead" featuring new works by more than 350 artists. 1 pm to 8 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

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ART SHOW:

Concubine Volkening, Park Slope artist and mother with brain cancer, presents 20 new paintings. "In Memory." See 9 DAYS on page 10.



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PUBLISHERS
Celia Weintraub (ext 104)
Ed Weintraub (ext 105)

EDITOR
Gersh Kuntzman (ext 119)
SENIOR EDITOR/PROD MGR
Vince DiMiccio (ext 125)

GO BROOKLYN! EDITOR
Lisa J. Curtis (ext 116)

EDITORIAL STAFF
ASSOCIATE GO EDITOR
Adam Ratner (ext 123)

STAFF REPORTERS
Mike McLaughlin (ext 122)
Ben Mursing (ext 121)
Sarah Portillo (ext 123)

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Want to experience our world's many cultures without leaving our borough? Get ready for Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts' 2008-2009 lineup, announced earlier this month. Brooklyn Center will present singers from St. Petersburg on March 7, 2009, acrobats from Australia on Jan. 10, 2009, tango dancers from Argentina on Nov. 15, and everything in between at its home on the Brooklyn College campus, the Walt Whitman Theatre.

"I believe very strongly that I can bring in art that's going to serve my audience here, but also keep it really fresh and interesting," Artistic Director Seth Soloway told GO Brooklyn. "We're creating an experience that you can't get anywhere else, and it's

right here in your borough."

Some performances to look forward to include Grammy-winning jazz vocalist Patti Austin with the Duke Ellington Orchestra on Nov. 22 and the New York premiere of "Score!" by Australia's Expressions Dance Company (pictured) on Jan. 10, 2009.

But you can't see any of it without tickets, which are on sale now.

The Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College 2008-2009 season begins in October at the Walt Whitman Theatre (2000 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Midwood). Individual and subscription tickets for the 2008-2009 season are available now at www.brooklyncenter.com or (718) 951-4500.

—Kate Ray



Cast party

The Theater for a New Audience won't move to its Frank Gehry-designed Fort Greene headquarters (rendering pictured) for quite a while, but that won't stop the group from throwing a party in the neighborhood on Wednesday.

"We're trying to get the community to know about us," Rachel Lovett, director of the group's capital campaign, told GO Brooklyn. "It gives us an edge, so that people know who we are before we get there."

Held on the roof of the 30-story Forte Condos building, the fundraiser will feature food from Columbia Street Waterfront District eatery Korhogo 126, an open bar courtesy of

Gnarly Vines and the Brooklyn Brewery, music by DJ Jamal Reid and art — including an all-Brooklynite show in one of the penthouses, giant-sized dominos on the roof and an interactive mural.

"You can see the building site from the roof deck," said Lovett. "It's a way to broaden the network of people who know us as we build."

The Theater for a New Audience "Summer Bash" will take place from 6:30 pm to 10 pm on June 18 at the Forte Condos (Fulton Street at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$50-\$75. For information, call (212) 229-2819 or visit www.tnfa.org.

—Adam Rathe

BROOKLYN Nightlife



<http://> "Devil" in the details: Daniel Johnston, the Texas-based singer-songwriter who shot to fame with strange, provocative live show to the Warsaw in Greenpoint on June 20. For our complete Brooklyn Nightlife listings, visit www.brooklynpaper.com/nightlife.

Holy 'Hill'

Dance companies take center stage at Downtown festival

By Adam Rathe
The Brooklyn Paper

When the Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center kicks off its 12th annual "The Souls of Our Feet People of Color Dance Festival" on Monday, at Long Island University's Kumbhe Theater, it's going to be more like a family reunion than your average dance recital.

According to Alex Smith, executive chairman of the 32-year-old Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center (THPAC), this year's dance festival — which continues through June 24 — is different because instead of focusing on individual dancers, it will feature 10 companies, all of which Thelma Hill has had a hand in establishing, and all of which, save the Washington, DC-based **Edge-works** (performing June 17) and Philadelphia-based **The Smoke, Lilies & Jade Arts Initiative** (performing June 22) hail from the borough.

"Brooklyn just fosters this type of creativity," Smith told GO Brooklyn.

"This year we're presenting eight new companies, none of which were in existence before 2000, and they are all presenting new work. Along with that, we're presenting two established companies that Thelma Hill nurtured in their early years."

Indeed, **Ron K. Brown**, of the award-winning Fort Greene-based **Evidence** dance company, is one of Thelma Hill's great success stories, and will be bringing his troupe to the festival on Tuesday, June 17.

Up-and-coming artists, like **Abraham in Motion** artistic director Kyle Abraham, are hoping that some of Brown's work on the same stage on June 22.

"It seems like Thelma Hill is trying to really explore what's happening with artists of color," said Abraham, a Cobble Hill resident who will be presenting "Number 6," a dance inspired by the Jackson Pollock painting of the same name. "It's not just all about one aesthetic. All of the artists involved have so



Group dynamics: Among the emerging dance companies performing as part of Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center's dance festival at the Kumbhe Theater are The Smoke, Lilies & Jade Arts Initiative, taking the stage on June 22.

many different viewpoints and voices."

Smith agreed, and is pleased to present new and exciting groups alongside those who are still exciting, but maybe not quite as new.

"[**Urban Bush Women** and **Evidence**] were where these companies are now — 15 years ago," he said of those well-known THPAC alumni, who will perform on June 16 and 17, respectively. "It's great that they're willing to perform, and it's good, because it offers continuity to the organization. We do dance presentation for

companies of color, so you see those that are new and those that are more established."

Not just any new talent makes the cut, however. Smith said that the festival is known for being a launching pad for local dance groups, and that only the best of the best are chosen to represent Thelma Hill on stage.

"This festival will give you an idea of who is going to be major on the scene in the next two to five years," he said. "These companies are definitely going to be the movers and shakers."

Additional companies slated to perform during THPAC's series are **Ase Dance Theater** on June 16; **HUNTERDANCE Theater** and **Tracy Lang** on June 23; and **Purelements** and **Assa Yaa African-American Dance Theater** on June 24.

And while dance companies can make it big in any city, Smith believes that it's right here in Brooklyn where they'll learn to sink or swim.

"That is one of the strengths of Brooklyn," he said. "It's very culturally aware."

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Sunday night's vicious thunderstorm did have one upside: It allowed our photographer to get this striking shot in Park Slope.

LIGHTS OUT!

Con Ed botches first heatwave

By Marie Cunningham
for The Brooklyn Paper

The summer's first heat wave hit Brooklyn full force, thanks to a Con Edison power outage on Sunday evening that left thousands without electricity and tens of thousands more jammed up in the subways.

System overloads caused power outages that af-



Con Ed workers scrambled to restore full power on Smith Street Monday afternoon.

fected nearly 3,000 residential customers, mostly in Boerum Hill. The blackout was also responsible for mucking up subway signals, slowing some lines and closing others.

"These were isolated equipment problems," Con Edison spokesman Chris Olett said. "At any point, any piece of equipment can break. It's bad luck of the draw."

Con Ed was trying to restore power to about 640 residents and businesses in an area bounded by Pacific, Baltic, Hoyt and Court streets at around noon on Monday. The neighborhood's electricity was fully restored by 5 pm that evening, Con Ed said.

"The heat was probably a factor" for the blackout, Olett said, adding that Con Ed was running above its normal capacity.

But Sunday evening's vicious thunderstorms also knocked down cables, which contributed to the energy snafu, he said.

With the debacle of the Queens blackout still fresh on many New Yorkers' minds, some complained that Con Ed had not done enough during the cooler months to prepare for the inevitable heat

See HOT1 on page 2

SPLITSVILLE!

Brooklyn divorces up 30%

All our exes live in ... Brooklyn? Yes, divorce cases are soaring in Kings County — up a whopping 30 percent since 2003.

The surge covers uncontested divorces — which numbered 5,489 in 2004 and jumped to 7,035 last year. Contested divorces — the ones that get ugly — are up five percent, according to Tom Killioke, the clerk at the Adams Street courthouse.

And no one knows why. It's certainly not Brooklyn's population increase — which is only up two percent so far this decade.

Of course, there are several theories:

• **Good times!** The booming economy between 2003 and 2007 allowed dissatisfied couples to realize that they could now afford to break up.

• **A healthy economy means steady traffic at the divorce court,** said Saul Edelstein, the dean of Brooklyn's di-



THE BROOKLYN ANGLE By Gersh Kuntzman

DIVORCE COURT

vorcer bar, who has been rendering people asunder for more than 40 years.

"When the economy is good, the husband or wife says, 'Hey, now I can afford a divorce.' Man, 2003 to 2004 was whoopee time for me."

• **Bad times!** Of course, when the economy tanks, so do many marriages. And the economy in the first five months of 2008 — when 2,550 marriages were dissolved in uncontested fashion — has been pretty bad.

• **There tend to be more divorces during bad times,** said Donald Mastrodomenico, another legend of the Brooklyn divorce scene.

• **More hate!** Clearly, if divorces are surging, more and more Brooklynites are falling out of love. But that fact doesn't explain why there would be so many divorces all of a sudden.

"I really don't think it's because Brooklynites are hating each other more than before," said Jef-

See DIVORCE on page 5

CALL OFF THE DOGS!

Nathan's frank contest goes on a two-minute diet

By Gersh Kuntzman
for The Brooklyn Paper

The celebrated Nathan's hot dog contest, the granddaddy of all competitive-eating spectacles, will drop from 12 minutes to just 10 this year — and traditionalists are outraged.

The sudden change in the so-called World Cup of Eating was not publicly announced, but appears in a vaguely worded, three-paragraph item on the Major League Eating Web site. The note said the change for the upcoming July 4 contest comes after the discovery of a trove of "numerous old items and ephemera" near the Nathan's stand at the historic corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues in Coney Island.

"Some random notes and contest-related scribbles were apparently unearthed at Nathan's," said George Shea, chairman of Major League Eating.

Shea allowed The Brooklyn Paper an exclusive look at the notations, which were in a lady's neat handwriting scrawled on a program from the 23rd annual convention of the Optical Society of the State of New York, which was held at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights in 1918.

"Handwerker's frankfurter rules," the scribbles state, a reference to Nathan Handwerker, who opened Nathan's in Coney Island in 1916 and oversaw the celebrated first hot-dog-eating contest that year, which, according to legend was won by Jim Mullen with 13 hot dogs and buns. Last year's winner set a record with 66 HDDs in 12 minutes.

But according to the scribbles on the Optical Society program, Handwerker's "rules" in the early years consisted of a noon contest that lasted "10 minutes."

That said, it is unclear whether the "rules" were scribbled on the program in 1918 or years later by someone using the program as scrap

See HOT DOGS on page 12



Red hot summer

Victoria Ase with Ernest Kaczinski at Coney Island Pier on Sunday. Record heat hit the borough last weekend, and an enormous crowd cooled off at the beach.

Clones open on Tuesday

The Brooklyn Paper

The wait 'til next year is finally over, Cyclones fans.

At long last, nearly nine months after the Brooklyn Cyclones were swept in the New York-Penn League finals by the Auburn Doubledays, the "Clones" begin their quest for their second championship with their home opener against the hated Staten Island Yankees on Tuesday, June 17, at 7 pm at Keyspan Park. The action moves to Staten Island on Wednesday night and then back to Keyspan on Thursday.

Manager Edgar Alfonzo, who led the Cyclones in their lone championship season in 2001 and returned last year to pilot the minor-leaguers to another near miracle, will be back in the dugout calling the shots.



Back in business

Alan Newton got a degree from Medgar Evers College last week after serving 22 years in prison for a crime he did not commit. The 46-year-old was eventually exonerated thanks to DNA evidence and went on to get a degree in business from the school in Crown Heights.

FORE FREE!

Dyker junior links open

By Jessica Firger
for The Brooklyn Paper

First golfer Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the city's newest golf center at Dyker Beach Park last Friday, but Hiz-zoner will never get to play a round at the six-hole complex — it's exclusively for kids.

The new City Parks Junior Golf Center, a six-hole course built on a formerly empty lot next to the existing 18-hole Dyker Beach public links, offers free and comprehensive lessons for kids, ages 6 to 17.

The \$8-million center, run by the City Parks Foundation, also includes a chipping range, golf simulators and a 5,000-square-foot clubhouse. Open seven days a week between July and October,

the center is the first of its kind in the country.

"This facility will introduce so many children, who otherwise wouldn't have had the chance to all the benefits of the game, including sportsmanship, self-discipline and enjoying the outdoors," said the mayor.

Eleven-year-old golf buff Erika Cristiano of Bay Ridge agreed, though she put it a different way.

"I like that golf's not like other games," said Cristiano, who caught the golf bug while participating in a less-intensive City Parks Foundation program that gives kids the basics.

But that's nothing compared to the new center, said Gregg Gausler, director of the facility.

"You can teach someone to See FREE GOLF on page 6



Mayor Bloomberg broke in the putting green at the new junior golf center in Dyker Heights. Here, Hannah Yousset, 12, followed Hiz-zoner.

IKEA READIES FOR ITS BIG OPENING DAY ON JUNE 18. SEE PAGE 2 AND GO BROOKLYN.



Calm before the storm: Quiet Clinton Street in Red Hook will see an influx of cars once Ikea opens on June 18.

IKEA POLICES HOOK

Retail giant hires 17 cops to handle traffic all summer

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Ikea is so concerned about traffic after its opening in Red Hook on Wednesday, June 18, that the Swedish furniture giant will pay the NYPD to deploy 17 uniformed cops to keep cars flowing through the summer. The Brooklyn Paper has

EXCLUSIVE

learned. Renting more than a dozen of New York's Finest is part of Ikea's multi-pronged approach to dealing with the thousands of shoppers every weekday, and the estimated 17,000 customers each

weekend day. Its plans also entail free ferry and subway shuttle service to Borough Hall and Smith-Ninth Street — but these forms of transportation may not appeal to shoppers lugging home cumbersome furniture (or stockpiling Swedish meatballs). For drivers, Ikea has paid the city to put up new signs on highways and local roads directing

drivers to and from the Beard Street mega-store. Clinton Street will be the main artery for drivers to reach the 22-acre waterfront store — Ikea's first in the city. The anticipated increase in traffic in what has been a remote neighborhood was one of the chief arguments levied by critics six years ago against per-

mitting the store to open. But Deputy Inspector Michael Kemper, the commanding officer of the 76th Precinct, which covers Red Hook, has heard these unfulfilled hypotheses before, like when the city opened a cruise ship terminal off of Imlay Street in 2006. "Every time that a ship is in, we have thousands of cars in



OPENS JUNE 18!

and out of Red Hook," Kemper said, adding that the additional traffic is not a big deal. But cruise ships only come in once a week on average — and only during the sailing season — unlike Ikea, which will be open from 10 am to 10 pm, seven days a week.

With traffic expected to be steady and severe, Ikea lined up the 17 cops from the NYPD's "paid detail unit."

That unit is a pool of off-duty cops who make more than \$30 per hour by doing additional, city-sanctioned police work on their time off. Rockefeller Center, Yankee Stadium and synagogues and merchants associations have paid for cops in the past, the NYPD said.

Despite concerns about traffic, Red Hook residents remain pleased at the big blue giant hulking at the southern edge of their hard-scrabble neighborhood, where unemployment is around 20 percent.

Though the company, citing employee privacy, will not divulge how many of its 600 positions have been filled by Red Hookers, neighbors are still lavishing praise.

"It's a large number," said Dorothy Shields, president of the Red Hook East Tenants Association, who added that she personally knows five people who became managers.

"I'm well satisfied. They kept their promise."

HOT!

Continued from page 1

wave. "We've seen this before — businesses shuttered as a result of Con Ed's ineptitude," said Councilman Eric Gioia (D-Queens). "How much more do we need to put up with before we say enough's enough? This is what happens when an under-regulated monopoly runs amok."

Olet rejected Gioia's charge, saying that Con Ed spent \$1.7 billion in new cables, transformers and substations across the five boroughs since last September. And the company has handed out \$50,000 in payments to affected stores.

But the money did not prevent a blackout that lasted 24 hours for some people and affected service along the 2, 3, 4, F and G subway lines.

"We have a 2-year-old daughter, so we would have liked to turn on the A/C," said Mike Grassotti, who lives on Smith Street at Warren Street and did not have power during the sweltering Sunday night. It was back by 8:30 am, he said.

But that wasn't soon enough to avoid a disastrous morning rush hour, when service along the F and G lines remained spotty.

"We had to bring in generators to run the signals," said Charles Seaton, spokesman for MTA Transit. "But they don't produce as much power as Con Ed."

Even as critics say that Con Ed is 0-for-1 so far this year, the state Department of Public Services, which regulates the energy giant, says it's too early to pass judgment.

"An assessment [of the blackout] would be premature," said agency spokeswoman Ann Dalton, who added, "They are being watched on a daily basis, 24/7."

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H&M coming to Fulton

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Swedish cheap-chic clothing store H&M will come to Fulton Mall by next spring — and could be one of the first tenants in a giant new glass-walled mall at Bridge Street. The high-fashion/low-priced store confirmed that it would open by spring, 2009 — and a real-estate source told The Brooklyn Paper that exclusive Fulton Mall developer Al Laboz will be the store's landlord.

That makes sense, given that Laboz owns the landmark Con-way building at 505 Fulton St. and plans a glass mini-mall next door — and Laboz has said for years that H&M is exactly the kind of retailer he wants on a diversified Fulton Mall.

"I want to make Fulton Street Mall into 34th Street, where it is strong retailers giving a quality shopping experience," he told The New York Observer in 2006. "Instead of bringing in a dozen cellphone stores, [we need] a sprinkling of lingerie, women's garments, H&M or other type of stores."

Laboz did not return calls, but his company Web site heralds the 500,000-square-foot glass mall and promises "a major national retail store" on its ground floor and luxury residential condominiums above.

H&M's Fulton Mall location would be the company's second in Brooklyn, and would play a part in the area's ongoing transformation from a discount shopping strip into a broader residential community with a mix of stores.

As such, it will be warmly received, retail experts said. "[H&M] would bring a wonderful flavor to Downtown Brooklyn," said Paula Ingram of Ingram and Hebron Realty, which did not have a role in the deal. "They're very assertive — they do a lot of window displays, and I think that's what we need."



Fulton Mall landowner Al Laboz is already building this glass-walled mini-mall on Fulton Street, which is reported to be the future home of an H&M store.

Fulton Mall is the borough's busiest shopping strip, with 100,000 shoppers each day and new rents soaring, up 50 to 100 percent, according to Ingram and Hebron. More than 14,400 residential units and 1.6 million square feet of retail space are planned for construction by 2012, according to the Downtown Brooklyn Partnership, a quasi-governmental agency guiding development in the neighborhood.

The H&M news, which follows MTV's announcement that its trendy "Real World" reality show will start filming two blocks away on once-baneful Wiloughby Street, signals the beginning of that shift, Ingram said.

"People used to say, what comes first — the people moving to the neighborhood or a store coming in and people wanting to move?" Ingram said. "You never really know, but once they're down here, it influences many things."

H&M's Kings Plaza Mall store opened in 2001. The Euro-styled retailer opened its first store in Sweden in 1947, and its first U.S. store in Manhattan in 2000.

DIVORCE...

Continued from page 1

frey Sunshine, the supervising judge for matrimonial matters in Kings County.

Instead, he credited his own courtroom for doing a better job than ever, right down to providing excellent service for couples who don't have lawyers.

"We have a very active pro-se office and the word is getting out," said Sunshine. "They don't even take lunch most days." Couples can file uncontested divorces in any county, so if there's a backlog in Manhattan or Queens, many may choose Brooklyn, Sunshine added.

"Brooklyn does do a better job than Queens," Mastrodomenico said. (The clerk from the Queens and Manhattan divorce parts did not return calls.)

• **More violence:** Sunshine thought that part of the increase in divorce cases was due to the decreasing stigma faced by victims of domestic violence.

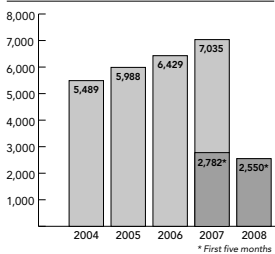
"More and more, a woman in an abusive relationship knows she has options — and, thankfully, the court has been helpful," Sunshine said. He also credited District Attorney Charles Hynes for his work with domestic violence victims.

The bottom line? No one knows why Brooklyn is Splitville, NYC. "All I know is that I've been doing this for 20 years and business is good," Mastrodomenico said. "But the uptick over the past four years? It's a mystery."

Broken-hearts club

The numbers don't lie: divorces in Brooklyn are up nearly 30 percent in just four years — but what's the reason? It's anyone's guess. Our handy chart captures the sad trend.

Source: Kings County Supreme Court



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Starbucks names shake for boro

By Sarah Portlock
The Brooklyn Paper

Manhattan has its eponymous bourbon and vermouth. And Brooklyn now has its... ice milk and caramel swirl? Apparently, a Starbucks vanilla bean frappuccino — with a caramel swirl! — will be our borough's star in the culinary firmament.

Created by a Starbucks district manager after noticing high school girls customizing the traditional vanilla bean frappuccino, "The Brooklyn" consists of nothing more than the ubiquitous chain's existing drink, enhanced with a bit more sugar.

A Starbucks on Court Street broke the "news" this week by putting out an A-frame sign reading, "The new all time favorite drink... the Brooklyn."

Oh, and did we mention that it's 40 more cents (\$4.90 for a venti!) — and 20 more calories (620, but who's counting?) — than the standard frappuccino.

The whole thing may feel like a scam — or a way for Starbucks

beans bean counters to stave off the vanilla bean frappuccino blues — but hours after the sign was deployed outside that Court Street Starbucks, customers were genuinely abuzz (and there's no caffeine in a "Brooklyn," either).

"It's the latest craze. Everyone's talking about it," said Park Slope resident Tanya Mikala.

"It's merely blended milk, vanilla powder, crushed ice, and whipped cream. And that all-important caramel swirl."



Given their own addiction to sugary summertime fluff, it's no surprise that Hollywood stars have already latched onto "The Brooklyn."

Denzel Washington and John Travolta apparently quaffed a few during the filming of "The Taking of Pelham 123" in the neighborhood last month, in production assistant said.

No word on whether the stars came back for seconds.

But real Brooklynites weren't convinced.

"This is news to me," said

Greg Jensen, a messenger. "I didn't know vanilla and caramel had anything to do with Brooklyn."

Didn't know?! Caramel is merely burned sugar — and if nothing else, the history of Brooklyn is the history of American sugar refining. By the late 19th-century, sugar plants here produced more than half the sugar consumed in the United States.

And now, thanks to Starbucks, we're consuming it back.

— with Jessica Firger

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Another new hotel set for Gowanus

The Brooklyn Paper

Sure, you see a vacant lot in this picture of 611 DeGraw St., between Third and Fourth avenues — but a developer sees yet another hotel in the so-called Gowanus Canal Hotel District.

An unidentified builder just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — which can support a



A developer just paid \$1.4 million for this lot — and plans a hotel. Such inns can be built on manufacturing-zoned land, though some height restrictions apply.

10,000-square-foot hotel under current zoning.

Ken Freeman at Massey Knudsen, which brokered the deal, said the manufacturing-zoned lot sold for so much because the new owner "is capable of taking advantage of the available air rights," most likely up to eight stories.

The hotel is one of five that are now proposed for the area, joining Hotel Le Bleu, the Holiday Inn Express and the Comfort Inn that are already operating.

The sale of the lot is likely to draw fire from Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope), who recently called for a moratorium on new hotels on manufacturing-zoned land in the Gowanus corridor.

— Gersh Kuntzman

FREE GOLF

Continued from page 1

swing in the park, but they don't know to play," said Gauschoer. "But it's like chess, you need to learn more than how to move each piece."

The center is not just about learning the Inner Game, but also helping urban kids take advantage of the many golf scholarships (who knew there were golf scholarships?) to colleges around the country.

Perhaps that explains the location — Dyker Beach is where Earl Woods once played with his son before he became a superstar named Tiger.

They say that golf is a long walk spoiled. But in order to have this walk spoiled, you'll have to drive. The new center is midway between the R train's 86th Street station and the M train at 18th Avenue in Bensonhurst. Hopping the No. 8 bus from either station will get you there — eventually.

Hannah Younsang, a 12-year-old from Staten Island, is lucky. Her mom said she'll drive her to Bay Ridge three times a week to take advantage of the free schooling.

The good news is that kids won't be carrying their clubs all the way from the subway. Callaway, a golf equipment manufacturer, has provided fancy sticks that stay at the center.

One-quarter of the \$8 million cost came from city taxpayers. The rest is a combination of both private and public grants, including Con Edison.

After his ceremonial putt (swing and a miss!), the orange-sweater-clad Bloomberg played a round at the big boy's course next door with chef Mario Batali (with his trademark Cross) and comic Jimmy Fallon (white cardigan) in a fundraiser to help solicit an additional \$4 million.

Meanwhile, instructor Carmine Filocamo gave his first lesson.

"I can't believe they built this place for kids," said Filocamo, who learned the game at age 8.

"They're not being taught by their uncle who is an accountant here. They'll learn the game for real."

Kickball Pirate gets revenge

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

The Greenpoint kickball hero arrested last month for totting a buccaneer's sword through a Macy's department store made his triumphant return to McCarran Park on Sunday, leading his team to a rare victory.

After a night behind bars and two weeks off the field, Lance Jackson, 29, logged two hits (err... kicks) and a run scored, helping the Pirates (officially Los Piratas Mecánicos) beat Regression Aggression, 5-3.

"I'm just happy to be back with my team, winning games," Jackson said after the victory, as self-effacing as ever.

Jackson was separated from his squad when cops nabbed him as he shopped with his girlfriend on



Kickball — and machete — hero Lance Jackson.

May 23, charging the lanky Greenpointer with weapons possession for carrying the sword, which he maintains was merely a prop for that evening's games. Jackson missed those contests while his case was being processed.

The arrest sent shockwaves through the 33-team Brooklyn Kickball league, where players purveyals aside to stand behind Jackson and his squad, which has a reputation for rabble-rousing.

The Pirates, with their 3-6 record, are one of the weaker teams in the league. Known more for antics than athleticism, the team often interrupts games to throw water balloons and shoot fireworks.

But with Jackson's return, the only things the Pirates were throwing was strikes, and the only explosions came off their insteps — and co-captain Hector Castillo said Jackson was the catalyst.

"It's great to have him back," Castillo said. "He helps with the points and he helps with the morale. He's a high-ranking Pirate."



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\$13.49



Château Porcieux, Côtes de Provence Rosé

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Fred Malwitz, 79

Ridgite was father of Paper manager

for The Brooklyn Paper

Fred Malwitz, a consummate family man, Mets fan and father of Brooklyn Paper bookkeeper Lisa Malwitz, has died.

The cause of death has not been confirmed, but Malwitz, 79, was apparently the victim of a stroke on June 5, his daughter Lisa said.

A man of simple Brooklyn passions — baseball, fishing, gambling and hating the New York Yankees — Malwitz was nothing short of "the anchor in our family," said Charles Malwitz, the middle of Malwitz's three children, who remembered his father as a hardworking, caring, and optimistic 6-foot man.

Frederick William Malwitz II was born May 29, 1929, in his parents' house at 10 Church Avenue in Flatbush. He attended Erasmus Hall, the noted Flatbush high school where Barbara Streisand graduated. Malwitz also worked at Etinger's, the bakery.

After high school, Malwitz went to work as a messenger at Chase Manhattan Bank. This led to a 43-year career most recently



Fred Malwitz with his daughter, Lisa.

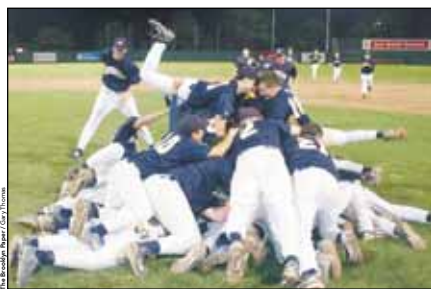
as vice president of international operations. He retired in 1989 to care for his wife of 44 years, Mathilde — also known as Lee — died of cancer in 1994.

The couple had met on a blind date.

Friends said that Malwitz loved his family most of all, but the Mets were a close second.

"His last words were not, 'I love you,' but, 'I hate the Yankees,'" his daughter said.

He is survived by his three children, Frederick William Malwitz, III, Charles Florian Malwitz, and Lisa Jayne Malwitz; an older brother, Norman Malwitz; grandchildren Christopher, Samantha, Jason and Joni; and great-grandson Austin. — Jessica Fingar



The Brooklyn Paper / Gary Thomas

HOT DOG...

Continued from page 1

paper. One tantalizing hint, however, is a second note that lists all the newspapers that needed to be contacted with the contest's final results: the New York Times, the New York Evening Post, and the Brooklyn Standard Union.

The Standard Union folded in the 1930s.

Shea said he didn't know the date of the scribbles, but said the very discovery of the document led to another astounding revelation.

We put together a team of experts to determine the validity of the scribbles and then, through the use of what I believe scholars call "a Google search," we discovered a New York Times article from 1986 that referred to the contest as taking 10 minutes.

Major League Eating President Richard Shea — George's brother — said the Times article, coupled with the scribbles, provided compelling evidence that the contest's traditional length was actually 10 minutes, not the 12 minutes that have been the standard for at least two decades (see chart).

"It had David Dunlap's byline, and he's a credible reporter," Richard Shea said. "Plus, it mentioned that the winner ate his hot dogs and buns, so clearly he got the details correct."

"I think it's a ridiculous change," the champ said, by cellphone from his home near San Jose, Calif.

But he did not think the shorter format would affect his game.

"Every eater can get to his capacity in 10 minutes, or in

ence to the contrary, such as a correction in a subsequent issue of the Times, my operating assumption is that the (1986) story is correct. We take such care in reporting such things accurately, you know."

The decision to put the contest on a diet is already being condemned by traditionalists — even though the tradition may indeed be 10 minutes.

"Records have to mean something," said longtime contest watcher — and former Frankster — Lawrence Gardner. "That's always the talk around July 4: 'Will [Takeru] Kobayashi break his record again? Can a human body really eat 66 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes?'"

about those 12 minutes."

Fellow fan Kurt Hirsch echoed that thought: "Perhaps Major League Baseball should start playing seven-inning games."

Keeping world champ Joey "Jaws" Chestnut, who downed 66 hot dogs and buns in 12 minutes last July 4, said the change will have profound implications on the man-eat-dog world of gustatory gluttony.

Indeed, Chestnut, surged past six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi only in the last few minutes of the contest.

"I think it's a ridiculous change," the champ said, by cellphone from his home near San Jose, Calif.

But he did not think the shorter format would affect his game.

"Every eater can get to his capacity in 10 minutes, or in



The Brooklyn Paper / Gary Thomas

Six-time champ Takeru Kobayashi nearly experienced reflexes contrary to swallowing towards the end of the 2007 Nathan's contest — and some competitive eating fans think his near disaster motivated the move to a 10-minute contest.

even less time," he said. "I'll just have to get to my capacity faster."

That, perhaps, is exactly what the Shea brothers should be worried about, said one eater, who requested anonymity because he is still active on a circuit that includes contests in lobster rolls, ice cream, jalapeno peppers and pain-seared cow brains.

"The contest is ultimately about marketing Nathan's, and there have been too many close calls lately."

True, even the great Kobayashi has exhibited reflexes

Win some, lose some

Xaverian HS players (left) celebrated their city Catholic High School Athletic Association championship victory over Moore Catholic last Sunday at St. John's University where the Clippers beat the Mavericks 7-1. A few days later (right), Brooklyn Paper Senior Editor Vince DiMiceli was gunned down in a fairly close play in the Scribes charity game loss to the Cyclones front office. The mostly out-of-shape writers actually gave the 'Clones staffers a scare, losing 6-5, after rallying in the final frame. Alas, the game



The Brooklyn Paper / Gary Thomas

ended on a deep (deep!) fly ball to centerfield that was snared in a miracle catch. Paper Editor Gersh Kuntzman was 0-2 on the day, mostly due to an umpire with an extremely generous strike zone. In their

second annual "24 Hours of Baseball" charity event, the Clones front office won some and lost some, but the team did raise \$15,000 for charity. Watch the video from our game at BrooklynPaper.com!

The 12-minute era

The return of the Nathan's hot-dog-eating contest to a 10-minute format that existed at least through 1986 brings to a close the sport's "12-minute era." Here is a recap of what experts believe was competitive eating's golden age (* indicates time-world-record).

YEAR	WINNER	HDBs
1990	Mike "The Scholar" DeVito	16*
1991	Frank "Hollywood" Dellarosa	21*
1992	Frank "Hollywood" Dellarosa	19
1993	DeVito	17
1994	DeVito	20
1995	Ed "The Maspeth Monster" Krachie	19 1/2
1996	Krachi	22 1/4*
1997	Hirofumi Nakajima	24 1/2*
1998	Nakajima	19
1999	Steve Keiner	20 1/4
2000	Kazutoyo "The Rabbit" Arai	25 1/8*
2001	Takeru Kobayashi	50*
2002	Kobayashi	50 1/2*
2003	Kobayashi	44 1/2
2004	Kobayashi	53 1/2*
2005	Kobayashi	49
2006	Kobayashi	53 3/4*
2007	Joey "Jaws" Chestnut	66*

*That's not the issue!" he said.

"The issue is history, and the preponderance of the evidence now suggests that the contest was always 10 minutes."

"It's like the Constitution," he added. "Are you a strict constructionist or not?"

Shea was asked whether he was.

"I don't know," he said. "What's

a strict constructionist — is that Scalia?" I'm not sure. But on this, I am a strict constructionist."

Shea may have to eat those words. Two earlier Times articles, one from 1972 and another from 1974, referred to contests and a half-minute contests that were won by eaters who downed 14 and 10 hot dogs and buns respectively.

Amanda Green, 49

Restaurateur and Heights bon-vivant

The Brooklyn Paper

Beloved Brooklyn Heights restaurateur Amanda Green, who started La Boulabaisse and, more recently, the Wine Bar at 50 Henry Street, died early Sunday morning from pancreatic cancer. She was 49.

Friends described the British expatriate as full of life, creative, and with a warm smile. Despite her fight with cancer, Green went ahead and opened her wine- and raw-bar hotspot at Henry and Cranberry streets in January, and received accolades for it.

A former dancer, musician, and at one point an exotic bird importer, Green moved to Cobble Hill from Manhattan in the 1990s. She helped run La Boulabaisse, a French restaurant, and Atlantic Avenue that rode a wave of new restaurants between Clinton and Hicks streets.

A longtime close friend, Steve Manes, described Green



Last Christmas, Amanda Green with her children — Lella, 9, and Nick, 13.

as a "natural" for the hospitality business.

"She was one of those people (who), once you met her, if she liked you, you were on her list — she'd be calling," said longtime close friend Steve Manes.

Green is survived by her two children, Nick, 13, and Lella, 9; and her mother and stepfather, David Sandels.

— Sarah Portlock

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Parent

Father's Day drive with daughter & dad

I will remember this Father's Day because instead of watching a ballgame on TV, I will be driving my 13-year-old daughter and two friends to gymnastics camp in Pennsylvania.

I wonder if she will remember this day, this simple act of parenting, when she looks back years from now and looks the judgment of memory on me. I do this and a thousand other little things — sending her to a movie with friends, trips to the book store, letting her stay up to watch "Saturday Night Live" — because I care and because I want her to fondly recall her childhood and her dad.

Even before I head out on the drive through New Jersey, even before I try to keep my mouth shut and not act too goofy in front of my daughter's friends,

I'm reflecting on this fatherhood thing, and on my father, dead 20 years this fall.

The man I remember had rheumatoid arthritis that made his hands, wrists, elbows and feet bulbous and deformed. He wore special shoes and had long scars from operations. His voice rasped from the packs of gold Pall Malls that he never stopped smoking. He was unable to play sports or wrestle with me. By the time I was seven, my father had been through two marriages, forced out of the family business and he started following a path that led to small, dirty, cluttered apartments and uninspiring jobs.

My memories of him begin just as his own memories of himself were dying.

I spent every other weekend with my dad, quiet, nice



The Dad
By Scott Sager

times, fun and low key. I chose our activities, our menus, our destinations. We went to movies, shopped at Toys "R" Us and then played the games we bought while eating pasta covered in Ragu spaghetti sauce. We watched Friday night TV like "The Brady Bunch" and "Love American Style." I was given freedom to wander around for hot dogs when he worked at small neighborhood real estate offices.

When I was older he let me stay up to watch "The Midnight

Special" and "Don Kirshner's Rock Concert." I fondly remember these ordinary moments most of all. They comprised the total of what he was able to give me for the few years until life pulled me away.

My mother has and still does take care of me in my family as the caregiver. It is sufficed with photos and report cards, updates from camp counselors, stuff that accumulated during childhood years. I found a photograph of my father taken well before I was born. He is in a striped shirt, looking lean and fit, a full head of closely cropped hair. He looks as he did when he got out of the Navy — confident, a man coming into his own as a husband and father. This is the man I've heard stories of, how

he and my mother shared a sail boat on Lake Michigan with two other couples, how they went out to parties, dinners, concerts. They knew interesting people. Social-immigrant photographers and sculptors, musicians, writers, and chitcheos who had had pet monkeys.

That man loved and was loved. The man in that picture is someone I never knew.

In my 20s, I could drive all night until my stomach was sour with caffeine and chips. I had hair, long hair sometimes. I was a very good sailor. My kids don't know that man.

When my daughter is in her 40s, perhaps with her own children, will she remember this drive to gymnastics camp? Will she think of the English class visual project she left for me to finish, plugging and stapling a six-story balsa wood building

together until 2:30 am? Will she tell her children about our annual day trip to Coney Island and being too scared to ride the Cyclone? Or are the most important memories our little games that involved tickling and laughter as the lights are turned out each night or lemon crepes I make on Sunday mornings?

Thinking of my own father makes me wonder how I will be portrayed. Will I come out ahead in legend if I start giving them ice cream with every meal? Can I bribe their hearts with video iPods and ski vacations every winter?

In the end, like my father, I can only give my children what I have to offer at this phase in my life. I hope I provide them with more than my dad furnished me and that they will see me in a fuller way, some day.

On Father's Day, though, somewhere around the Delaware Water Gap, I expect my kid will be jibbering away with her friends and happy I am nearly invisible in the front seat.

Scott Sager is a Brooklyn Heights dad and writer. This is his first column. Smartmom returns next week.

FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SATURDAY, JUNE 14
11 am: Dr. Seuss stories. Barnes and Noble (106 Court St., at State Street in Downtown Brooklyn). Free. Call (718) 246-4996 for info.
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). \$8. \$4 students and seniors; free for members and children 12 and younger. Call (718) 638-5000.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." Puppetworks (338 Sixth Ave., at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$7. Call (718) 965-3391 for info.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, June 14.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 14.
MONDAY, JUNE 16
2 pm: Origami. Bay Ridge Library (7223 Ridge Blvd., at 72nd Street in Bay Ridge). Free. Call (718) 748-5709 for info.
4 pm: "The Wizard of Oz" at Big Movies for Little Kids. Cobble Hill Cinema (265 Court St., at Butler Street in Cobble Hill). \$2.50. 4 pm. Call (646) 263-2480.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18
4 pm: Anime and Manga club. Mill Basin branch (2385 Ralph Ave., at Avenue N in Mill Basin). Free. Call (718) 241-3973.
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19
6:30 pm: Kids Dance Festival. Kingsborough Community College (2001 Oriental Blvd., at Queens Street in Manhattan Beach). Call (718) 769-9161 for info.

FRIDAY, JUNE 20
4 pm: Tot Shabbat. Congregation Mount Sinai (280 Cadman Plaza West, at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights). Free. Call to list your event, e-mail information to Calendar@BrooklynPaper.com.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, June 14.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 14.
3:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." See Saturday, June 21.
SUNDAY, JUNE 22
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, June 14.
12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Pinocchio." See Saturday, June 14.
3:30 pm: "Hansel and Gretel." See Saturday, June 21.

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Mo Willems has done it again

The list of legendary couples in history — Antony and Cleopatra, Napoleon and Josephine, Felix and Oscar — helped Park Slope kids scribe Mo Willems has added another Elephant and Piggie.

The Emmy, Caldecott, Geisel and RA Milne award winner "Sesame Street" writer is, of course, best known for his clever, witty tomes for non-readers.

From the ne'er-do-well avian of "Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus," to the oddball ogre of "Leonardo, the Terrible Monster," to the tireless Regional Von Hoobie Doobie of "Edwina, the Dinosaur Who Didn't Know She Was Extinct," to, of course, Tricycle & Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale, Willems has made a career of charming out memorable characters.

But now, apparently, Willems feels he needs to move on.

I didn't get where I am today by not letting artists do their own thing. Woe is the critic who shakes an artist of Willems's gifts and forces him to churn out "Pigeon" sequels year after year.

So Willems is now hard at work on an entire new oeuvre and, dare I say it, new legacy: a series of books for early readers featuring Elephant and Piggie, two Jeffrey

son-Adams-style best friends.

Starting with "Today I Will Fly" last year, the series now includes six 30-odd-page books, including the two most recent, "I Love My New Toy" and "I Will Surprise My Friend!"

The latter is a droll work, a slapstick romp that plumbs

the very notion of why a joke works. In it, Elephant and Piggie watch as two lesser beasts bring themselves to joyful tears by scaring each other. Vowing to experience such joy themselves, Elephant and Piggie set out to scare each other.

While waiting for the inevitable fright from Piggie, Elephant's thoughts turn to neurotic darkness. He wonders if something dreadful has happened to his friend, he worries if Piggie has fallen off a cliff.

Meanwhile, the far less emotionally burdened Piggie wonders if Elephant has abandoned the scare game and gone and gotten lunch.

Raucous hijinx ensue. "I Love My New Toy" is,



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OUR OPINION

Dreaming of Wal-Mart

In a front-page story two weeks ago, our reporter Sarah Portlock took a walk along the Fulton Mall shopping strip in Downtown Brooklyn and found that at least 11 chain stores have more than one location in that short, eight-block stretch.

One store, Payless Shoes, has three! Real-estate observers said that such saturation makes sense from a retailers' perspective, although it does little to enhance shoppers' choice or help keep prices competitive.

But change is afoot on the Fulton Mall. This week, The Brooklyn Paper confirmed that H&M, the high-fashion, low-price, Euro-styled clothing store, plans to open next year on the mall, at Bridge Street.

And the New York Sun is reporting that JC Penney may occupy the current Conway site next door.

This is great news for shoppers, as both chains pride themselves on deep discounts and competitive prices.

As does Ikea, which will open on Wednes-

day in Red Hook.

As does Target, whose Atlantic Terminal store is said to be the chain's busiest location in the United States — so busy, in fact, that Target is planning to build another store just four blocks away.

Which brings us to Wal-Mart, whose revolutionary combination of size, selection and price has lowered the cost of living for millions of Americans. As Brooklyns has welcomed Target and Ikea, they would flock to the Bentonville behemoth if given the opportunity.

...

This newspaper has long supported Wal-Mart's efforts to open its first New York City store in Brooklyn, and has said that there is no better place for Wal-Mart than near the Fulton Mall.

While we remain concerned about some of Wal-Mart's corporate policies, we also believe that if it opened a truly urban store, Brooklyn consumers — and their dollars — would bend the chain towards our values, not the other way around.

And therein lies the key to adapting big-box stores to our urban environment.

If developers put them in mass-transit-starved enhanced strip malls like Caesar's Bay or Gateway at Spring Creek, we end up with an auto-driven "sucking sound" pulling the life out of nearby neighborhood shopping strips.

But put a Target, JC Penney or Wal-Mart in an existing downtown, and you draw even more traffic to the merchants occupying the adjacent streets. Then, instead of killing Mom-and-Pop stores, they'd present the Mom and Pops with enlarged opportunities for profit.

Fulton Mall is well served by public transit that efficiently connects it to most of New York City — and is surrounded by booming residential and commercial neighborhoods with hundreds of thousands of potential shoppers.

With Fulton Mall changing, it is time for city officials to reconsider Wal-Mart's attempt to bring its low prices and vast selection to Downtown Brooklyn.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Carlos Berling

LETTERS

Want to build Brooklyn Bridge Park? Scale it back!

To the editor,

It is not surprising that costs have soared for the Brooklyn Bridge Park ("Bridge park costs soar," May 31). The price for everything is going up. What is important is that there is enough money to start building the park as your article points out. The park does not have to be built in one year. It can be built as money becomes available.

In the past few months, several hundred people attended planning sessions for Pier 6 at the foot of Atlantic Avenue, which was a late addition to the park. People are hungry for a public park with active, and fun year-round activities for all.

We are meeting with elected officials to convince them to start some programming on Pier 6 that will generate funding to help

pay for the park and begin to attract park users. We find some encouragement and openness to these ideas. After all, elected officials wrote last year to the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) that urged the agency to "re-engage the community in the park design process."

As to what is driving up costs, there are elements of the official ESDC plan that are unnecessary, that few people want, and worse still, will damage the environment. ESDC plans huge wave-calming devices in the East River to make a pond for kayaking, and building floating walkways to nowhere. Plans also call for buying a fleet of cars and paying for a private armed police force. They have no place in a public park, and we urge legislators to work to drop these from the plan and thereby lower park costs.

Irene Van Slyke, Boerum Hill

The writer is chair of the Sierra Club Task Force on Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Send a letter

By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com
By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

one of the greatest offenders to our environment. Pampers diapers.

Understand they cannot be recycled. What about an alternative to Pampers — perhaps something is being manufactured with recyclable materials?

Teresa Martin, Park Slope

Horse play

To the editor,

Thank you for highlighting the challenging conditions that horses and riders face in Prospect Park in your story. "They hurt horses, don't they?" (June 7).

The article had a tone of resignation from the Parks Department and the Prospect Park Alliance. The dangerous conditions are not "top priority," the cost is huge, and by implication, nothing will be done.

This is not acceptable. We're not talking about a facility for only a handful of people here. Hundreds of people take a trail through the park every week and safety should be a priority.

It is a matter of actually putting the matter on the agenda and making it a capital improvement issue.

Let's not forget what can be achieved. The bridge paths in Forest Park, Queens benefited from part of a \$17-million capital improvement grant, largely thanks to then Councilmember, Tom Ognibene.

Attention Brooklyn — we need another Tom Ognibene to step up to the plate.

Ruth Moore, Windsor Terrace

To the editor,

On Saturday, more than one hundred thousand people attended the Belmont Stakes to watch the thoroughbreds, and huge crowds pass daily through the American Museum of Natural History's exhibit, "The Horse," to marvel over the many accomplishments of the horse.

Yet hard pressed would any one of them be, in this city, to actually see, touch or ride a live horse.

The bridge trails of Prospect Park are one of the few places left in this city where children and adults alike have the opportunity to learn to ride or simply marvel over the beauty that is a horse cantering through the park.

Prospect Park Alliance director Tupper Thomas said that the repair of the bridge paths is not a top priority right now. I ask, "Why not?"

I wonder has she ever been to Kensington Stable on a beautiful Saturday and witnessed the crowds clamoring for a chance to interact with a live horse, not one in a museum exhibit, or through a television screen, but the real thing?

If the eroded trails result in pushing the horses out of Prospect Park, we will have succeeded in making our world that much smaller and less spectacular.

Susan Montross, Clinton Hill

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at Court, Kings County on the 4th day of June, 2011, which may be examined at the Office of the District Attorney, 100 West Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 1000. My present name is Caesar Joseph Santander. My place of birth is Cadiz, Spain. I am a resident of Brooklyn, NY 11220. My place of birth is Cadiz, Spain.

